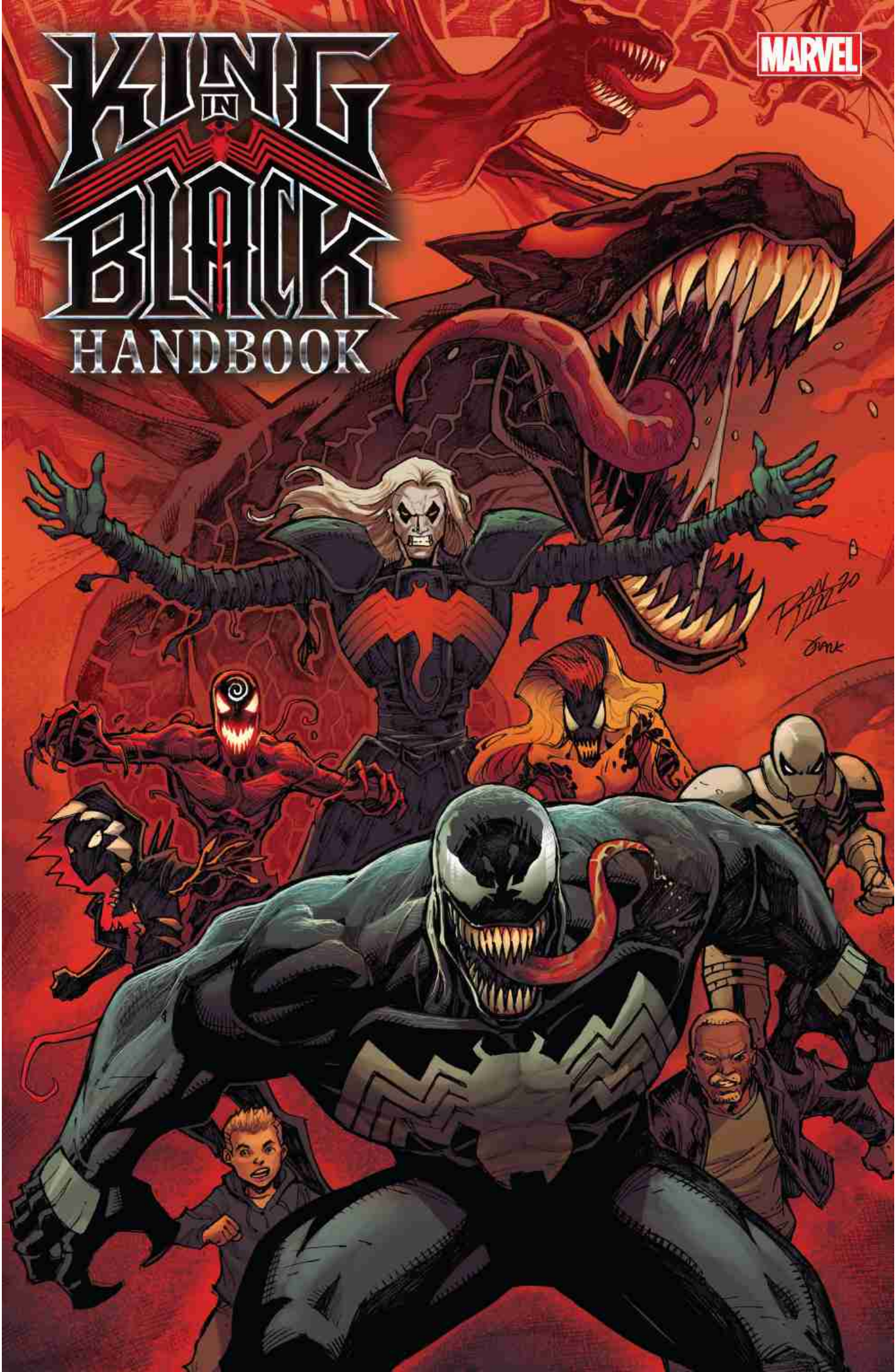
KING IN BLACK
HANDBOOK
MARVEL

KING IN BLACK HANDBOOK

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DEDICATION
In loving memory of Dale Surprenant 1948 - 2020

NOTE: *Coverage for this Handbook ends at the conclusions of* Venom #30 *and* Symbiote Spider-Man: King in Black #1 *(both printed in 2020).*

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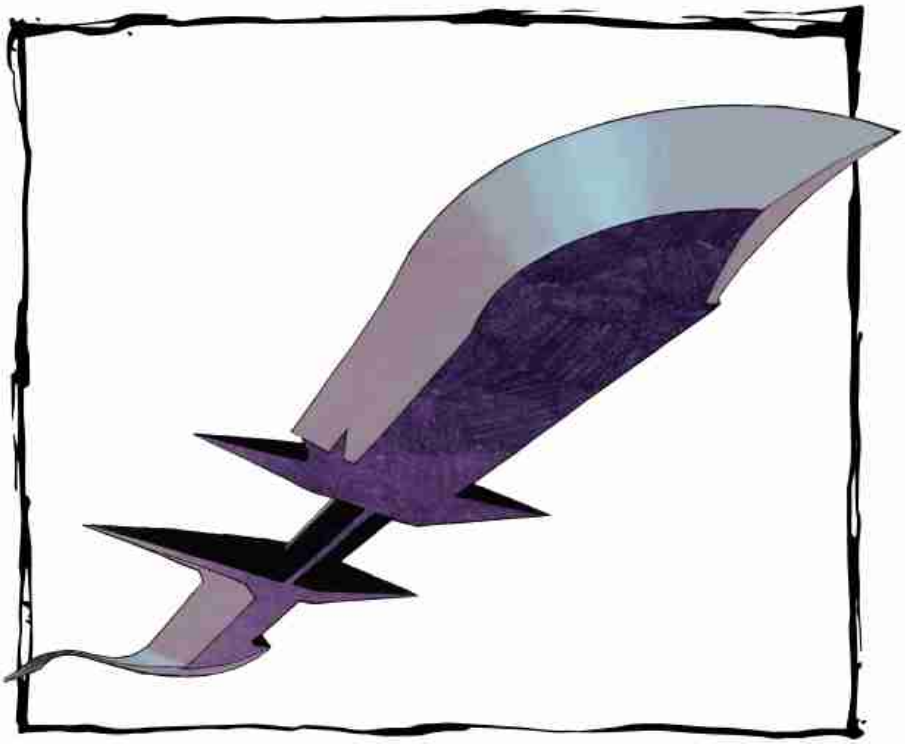
ALL-BLACK

CREATOR: Knull
USERS: Formerly Loki, Ego, Galactus, Thor Odinson (all native to Reality-14412), Thor Odinson, Gorr, Knull (all native to the Reality-616/ the Prime Reality)
ALIASES: Necrosword, Planet Cleaver, Slicer of Worlds, Annihilablade, Godslayer



KNULL
THOR: GOD OF THUNDER #6 (2013); (IDENTIFIED) VENOM #3 (2018)

GORR
THOR: GOD OF THUNDER #2 (2013)

THOR
(REALITY-616)
(MODERN) JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83 (1962)

THOR
(REALITY-14412)
THOR: GOD OF THUNDER #1 (2013)

GALACTUS
(REALITY-14412)
THOR: GOD OF THUNDER #19 (2014)

EGO
(REALITY-14412)
MIGHTY THOR #700 (2017)

LOKI
(REALITY-14412)
LOKI: AGENT OF ASGARD #1 (2013)

HISTORY: The god Knull apparently came into being before the Big Bang and existed peacefully within darkness. When the cosmic Celestials' introduction of light and creation disturbed his experience of nothingness, Knull created the first precursor of the Symbiote race, with which he slew one of the Celestials in anger. He then forged the symbiote into a powerful sword, the All-Black, using fires within the fallen Celestial. Over time, various false tales of the weapon's origin were told, including that it was forged by unrevealed "Elder Gods," or that it was a manifestation of the darkness present in all gods. Approximately 3,000 years ago, Knull and an unidentified god crashed on a planet while doing battle. This planet was home to Gorr, whose wife, Arra, and son, Agar, died of famine despite their devotion to their gods. Gorr's hatred for the deities he blamed for his life's tragedies attracted the All-Black, which left Knull and bonded with Gorr. Believing all gods either caused destruction or did nothing and thus deserved death, Gorr became the God Butcher and began slaughtering gods throughout the universe. In 893 C.E., Gorr encountered the Asgardian god Thor Odinson and tortured him to learn the names and locations of all of Earth's gods. However, Thor ultimately defeated Gorr and believed him dead.

Over the subsequent centuries, Gorr wielded All-Black across the cosmos, leaving a trail of slain deities. At some point, Gorr forced Shadrak, a god of bombs and fireballs, to design a "Godbomb" that could destroy all gods through time and space; Gorr also used the All-Black to create avatars of his deceased family. Following the centuries-old trail of murdered gods, Thor eventually journeyed to the future of Reality-14412, where he learned Gorr had used the All-Black to enslave gods from throughout history, including the Thor of 893 C.E., and forced them to build the Godbomb, which would be partially powered by the All-Black. Though Thor could not prevent the Godbomb's detonation, he used his hammer, Mjolnir, and its Reality-14412 counterpart to absorb the blast and the All-Black, severing Gorr's control of the symbiote. Gorr watched the avatar

KNULL CREATING ALL-BLACK

IN NATURAL FORM

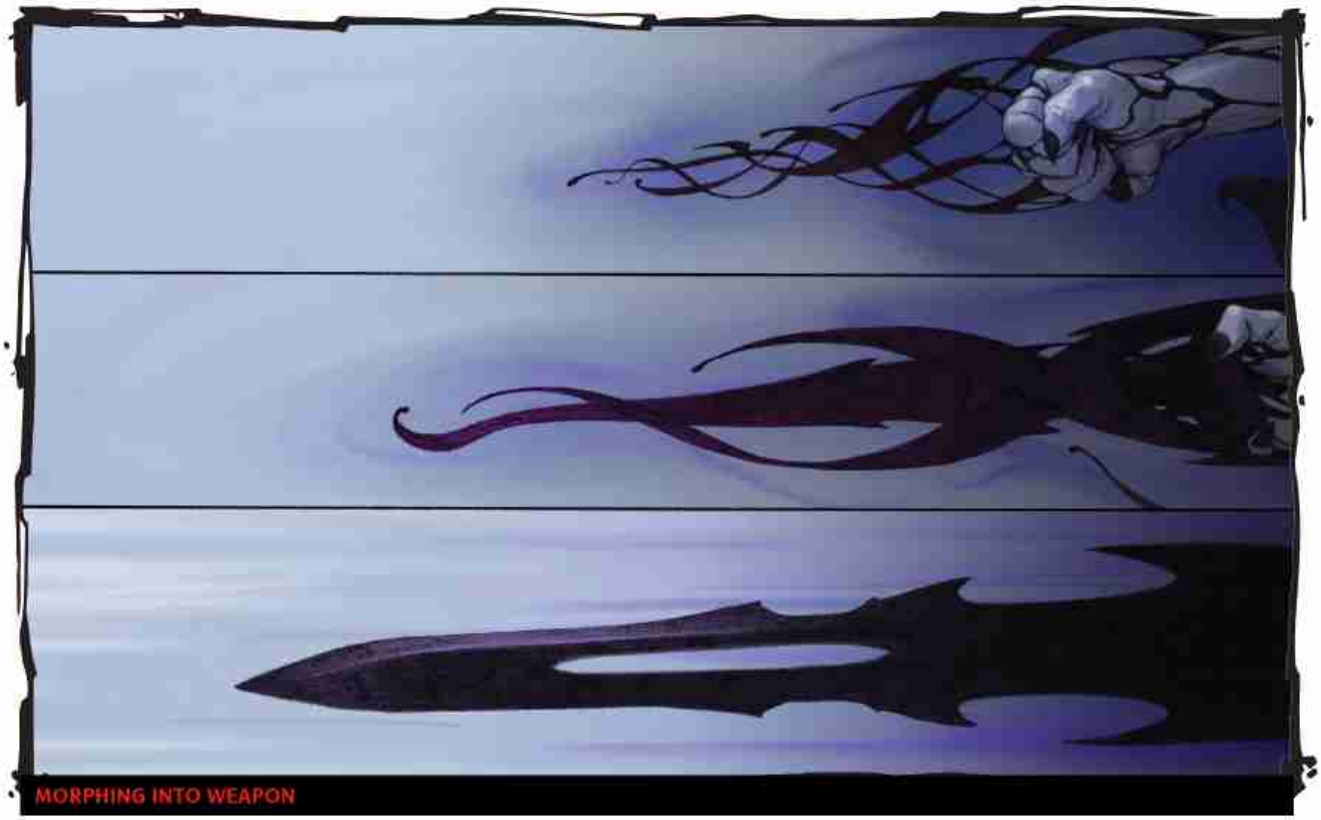
of his son melt away shortly before being decapitated by the young Thor of 893 C.E. The All-Black secretly absorbed Gorr into itself before Thor of Reality-14412 threw it into a black hole.

Sometime after the time-traveling Thors departed this reality, the world-devouring Galactus became a threat, forcing Thor of Reality-14412 to retrieve the All-Black from the black hole and use it to defeat Galactus. The All-Black, believed destroyed by the assault, bonded with Galactus who, under its influence, ran rampant through the cosmos devouring worlds before being confronted by Ego the Living Planet. During the battle, the symbiote abandoned Galactus to bond with Ego. Seeking the All-Black's power, the Asgardian god Loki tricked Ego into destroying itself so he could claim the symbiote. When Loki tried to release Gorr from the All-Black during a plot to destroy Thor, Gorr was angered that his peaceful, godless existence within All-Black was disturbed, but he resumed his quest to kill all gods when Loki returned the All-Black blade to him. When confronted by a legion of gods, Gorr bonded fully with the All-Black and began encompassing all space with darkness. Thor of Reality-14412 drew reserves of power from untold eons to unleash a thunderbolt that overpowered the All-Black, ending Gorr's darkness.

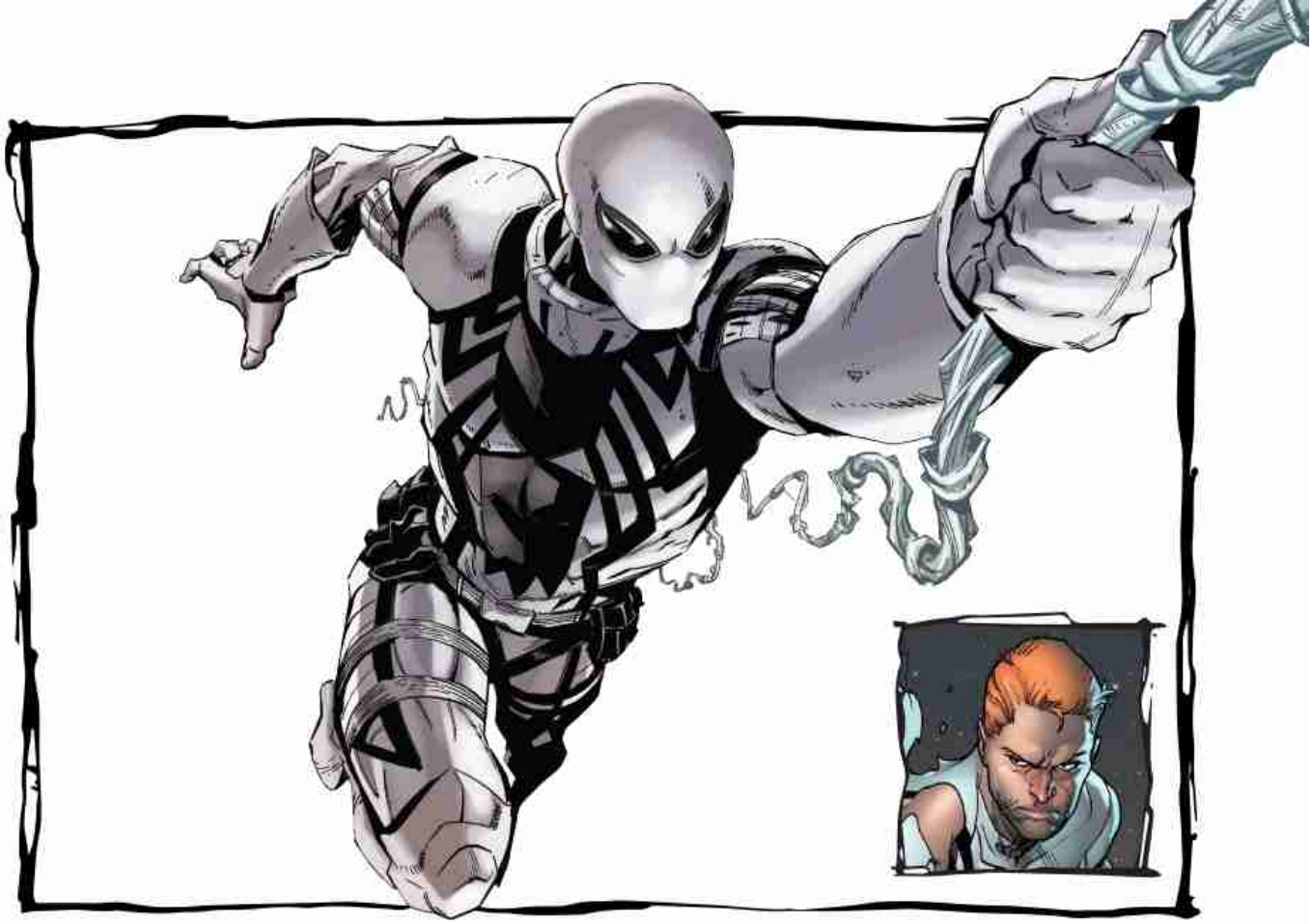
ATTRIBUTES: The All-Black is a vastly powerful, amorphous symbiote that attaches to an organic host and corrupts it. Though apparently sentient, the symbiote has not been documented acting independently of or speaking to its host like modern symbiotes. It generally takes the form of black-bladed weapons, though it can also project tendrils to attack or manipulate objects, or can be shaped into other objects such as a whip. It can also generate semi-sentient creatures such as Gorr's "Black Berserker" minions or avatars of sentient beings. When completely covered by the All-Black, a host can survive the vacuum of space, live for millennia without aging, and fly at interstellar speeds. When greatly enhanced by the blood of gods, the All-Black can possess cosmic beings such as Galactus or Ego the Living Planet, and at its most powerful, it can engulf celestial bodies and potentially the entire universe.

FIRST APPEARANCE:
(Black Berserker) *Thor: God of Thunder #1* (2012); (as sword) *Thor: God of Thunder #2* (2013)

ART BY BUTCH GUICE, ESAD RIBIC & RYAN STEGMAN



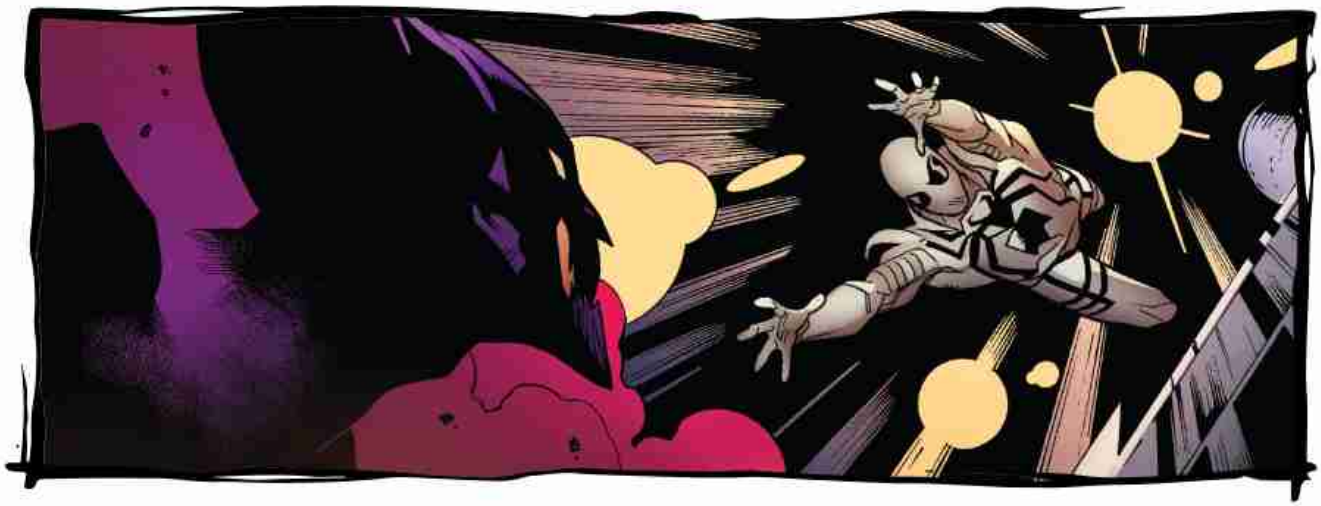
MORPHING INTO WEAPON



ANTI-VENOM

REAL NAME: Eugene "Flash" Thompson
ALIASES: Agent Anti-Venom, "Agent A-V," "Flesh Thom-Sen," Agent of the Cosmos, Victor Edward, Hail Mary, Gene Heisman, Venom, Agent Venom, "Flash-Man," "Sonny Boy"; has impersonated Stilt-Man, Hobgoblin, Spider-Man
IDENTITY: Known to authorities
OCCUPATION: Former assistant coach, adventurer, black ops agent, corporal in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserves, special advisor to the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, Oscorp employee, college football player
CITIZENSHIP: USA, with a criminal record (pardoned)
PLACE OF BIRTH: Forest Hills, Queens, New York
KNOWN RELATIVES: Harrison "Harry" (father, deceased), Rose "Rosie" (mother), Jessica "Jessie" (sister), unidentified brother-in-law (deceased), Lea (aunt)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly U.S. Army Reserves, Alcoholics Anonymous, Agents of the Cosmos, Guardians of the Galaxy (Reality-616), Avengers, Thunderbolts (Red Hulk-led), Oscorp staff, U.S. Army, Spider-Man Fan Club
EDUCATION: Some college courses, military training
HEIGHT: 4'1" (formerly 6'2"); (Venom) Variable; (Anti-Venom) 6'3"
WEIGHT: 160 lbs. (formerly 185 lbs.); (Venom) Variable; (Anti-Venom) 195 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Reddish blond

HISTORY: Eugene "Flash" Thompson was a popular athlete growing up in Forest Hills, New York. However, suffering imposed on him by an abusive, alcoholic father and a codependent mother turned Thompson into a bully, especially toward the studious Peter Parker. Unaware "Puny" Parker was secretly Spider-Man, Thompson ironically considered himself the biggest fan of the super hero. Thompson matured through his college years and later in the Army, eventually coming to consider Parker one of his closest friends. After returning home from service, Thompson began dating Parker's friend Betty Brant off-

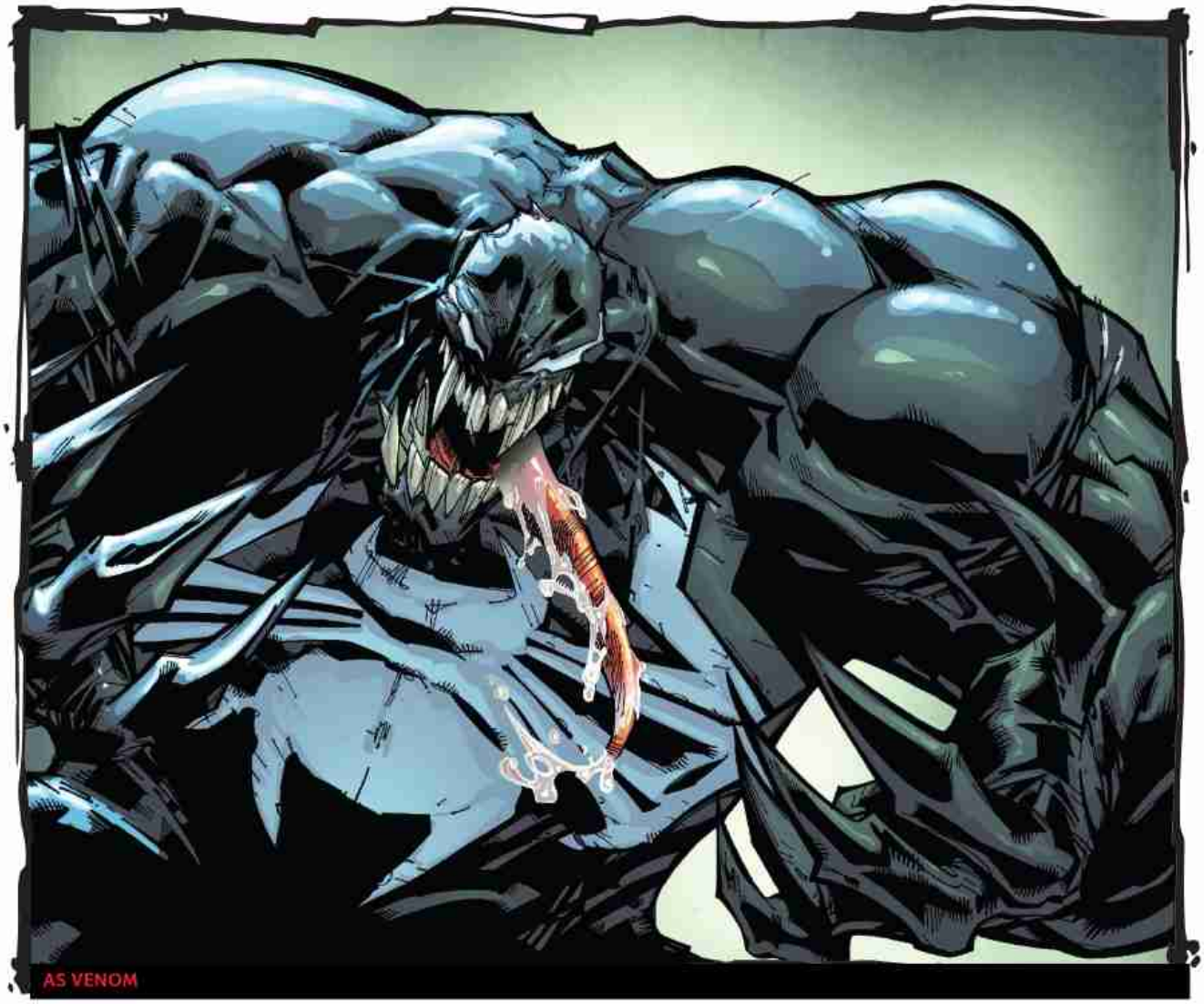


AS AGENT VENOM

and-on, but during difficult times, Thompson turned to alcohol like his father. When his drinking led to legal and personal problems, Thompson eventually chose sobriety and joined Alcoholics Anonymous to get help.

An Army reservist, Thompson was later called to serve in a war in the Middle East, but he lost both legs performing a heroic rescue. After receiving the Medal of Honor, he returned to New York, reunited with Brant, and learned to walk with prosthetics. Eventually, Thompson volunteered for Project: Rebirth 2.0 under the leadership of General Bradley Dodge and monitored by Captain Katherine Glover, and became a special operative bonded to the oft-violent alien Venom symbiote. Thompson was given drugs to control the symbiote and the project maintained a "kill-switch" if Venom went rogue. Thompson was unaware that he also became host to a clone of the Venom symbiote that the would-be world-conquering Ararat Corporation had created that was previously absorbed by the Venom symbiote. As "Agent Venom" he fell into a fierce animosity with a criminal using the Jack O'Lantern identity, one who was directed by his father figure, Crime-Master (Brant's believed-dead brother, Bennett). Though finally able to act heroically like Spider-Man, Thompson's personal life began to crumble when he was unable to make believable excuses for his absences. Additionally, Crime-Master learned Thompson's secret identity, threatened his loved ones, and forced Agent Venom into a secret alliance in order to protect Thompson's family. Despite some victories, such as playing a pivotal role ending New York's "Spider-Island" event, Agent Venom was unable to free himself from Crime-Master's threats and manipulations and wrestled to rein in the symbiote's homicidal tendencies. As the monstrous Venom he savagely beat and decapitated reckless murderer the Hijacker (Howard Mitchell).

Struggling emotionally after his father's death and ignoring demands made by Captain America (Steve Rogers) to surrender the symbiote when he and the U.S. government sought to shut down Project: Rebirth 2.0, Thompson fled to Las Vegas. There, Crime-Master blackmailed Thompson into stealing the Toxin symbiote, which Crime-Master hoped to sell as a weapon; apparently both men were unaware they stole the Toxin symbiote from the demon-lord Blackheart. While he was on the run, Thompson broke up with Brant. When Blackheart prepared a ritual to bring Hell on Earth, Agent Venom, X-23 (Laura Kinney), Red Hulk ("Thunderbolt" Ross), and Ghost Rider (Alejandra Jones) joined forces to thwart Blackheart. After they were killed by Blackheart and his forces, this group made a deal with rival Hell-lord Mephisto to restore their lives in exchange for a future favor from the collective group. When resurrecting them, Mephisto marked each of them with Hell-Marks, intending to secretly put them each in the running to be his successor as a Hell-lord; however, Thompson's Hell-Mark was unknowingly affixed to the previously absorbed Ararat Corporation clone. After the group foiled Blackheart's scheme, Captain America pardoned Thompson for


AS VENOM

going AWOL and offered Avengers membership. Thompson joined, and Beast (Henry McCoy) and Hank Pym provided him with a serum to render the symbiote docile. As a rookie Avenger, Agent Venom helped battle Adaptoids led by the synthezoid Descendants and rescued his fellow Avenger Valkyrie (Brunnhilde) from them. When symbiote-wearing serial killer Carnage (Cletus Kasady) escaped captivity and took over a small Colorado town, Agent Venom returned Carnage to prison. Later, Agent Venom attempted to snipe Crime-Master, but Eddie Brock (the Venom symbiote's previous host) interfered when he tried to kill Agent Venom during his quest to eliminate all symbiotes. After Agent Venom fled, Crime-Master forced the Toxin symbiote to bond to Brock; as Toxin, Brock joined Crime-Master's Savage Six alongside Megatak (Gregory Nettles), Jack O'Lantern, Death Adder (Roland Burroughs), Human Fly (Richard Deacon), and Crime-Master himself.

In retaliation for Thompson breaking his pact with Crime-Master, the Savage Six kidnapped his family and Betty Brant. Agent Venom rescued Betty as well as his mother and sister Jessie, but Jessie's husband was killed. Following this, Thompson finally revealed his identity to Betty, leaving her scared and angry. Crime-Master later captured Betty and revealed to her he was her brother. When Crime-Master overpowered Agent Venom, Betty shot Bennett in the back, apparently killing him. Jack O'Lantern, bitter at losing his father figure, went on a rampage, but was captured by Agent Venom and placed into Avengers custody. Later still, when Valkyrie was initiating a romantic relationship with Thompson, the Descendants infiltrated the Avengers orbiting Lighthouse Station thanks to Black Ant (secretly a duplicitous Life-Model Decoy of the apparently deceased Avenger Ant-Man/Eric O'Grady) and destroyed it. Agent Venom rescued Valkyrie and stopped Black Ant while the Descendants' "grandfather" Jim Hammond (formerly the Human Torch) deactivated all the Descendants before they transformed humanity into cyborgs.

While investigating Hydra's Department of Occult Armaments (D.O.A.), Agent Venom discovered rituals causing demonic possession of D.O.A. members. During the investigation, he also learned he had authority over demons, unaware the Hell-Mark affixed to the clone symbiote within the Venom symbiote actually granted this authority. When Agent Venom confronted D.O.A. member Daimon Hellstrom, who had previously cast a demon into Agent Venom, Hellstrom summoned the gargantuan Monsters of Evil against him, but Agent Venom redirected the Monsters against Hellstrom. Imprisoned, presumably for crimes committed by the D.O.A., Hellstrom explained to Thompson that Mephisto's Hell-Mark granted authority within occult matters and put him in the running to be Mephisto's successor; both apparently remained unaware the

Hell-Mark's "gifts" were actually bequeathed to the clone symbiote. Agent Venom next traveled with the Scarlet Spider (Spider-Man's clone Kaine) and reporter Katy Kiernan into the extradimensional Microverse in pursuit of the once-again-free Carnage, who accepted a deal with the despotic Marquis Radu to assassinate his enemy, the Redeemer. Assisting the heroic Enigma Force team, Agent Venom protected the Microverse and followed Carnage back to Earth, where Scarlet Spider essentially lobotomized Kasady.

Seeking a fresh start, Thompson took a position in Philadelphia as an assistant gym coach at West Philadelphia High School by day and acting as city guardian by night. There, he met student Andrea "Andi" Benton, who also lived in his apartment building. During a battle with the U-Foes, Agent Venom procured a machine that could uncover memories. Around this time, Red Hulk tapped Agent Venom to join his Thunderbolts black ops squad, along with the Punisher (Frank Castle), Elektra Natchios, and Deadpool ("Wade Wilson"). The Thunderbolts staged a violent coup d'état against the dictator of the island nation of Kata Jaya, where the gamma-powered Madman (Phillip Sterns) was providing black market gamma-technology to empower retired Crimson Dynamo armor for Elektra's brother Orestez. Despite much mistrust within their ranks, the Thunderbolts succeeded, and Orestez was apparently killed. Returning to Philadelphia, Agent Venom was hunted by Toxin and also faced alien technology that turned people into cannibalistic cyborgs; the two ultimately partnered to stop the cyborgs. Meanwhile, Benton deduced Thompson was a super hero. After Agent Venom interfered with his "business endeavors," the elusive drug lord and human trafficker Lord Ogre sent a man hypnotized into becoming Jack O'Lantern (while the real Jack O'Lantern was imprisoned) to Thompson's apartment building where he attacked Benton and apparently killed her father. The Ararat Corporation clone within Venom separated and bonded to the vengeance-seeking Benton for unrevealed reasons, surprising Thompson. Agent Venom stopped Benton from killing Jack O'Lantern, whom they left in police custody. Benton moved away, adopted the name Mania, and began hunting Lord Ogre.

THUNDERBOLTS UNIFORM

Through information provided by an incarcerated Hellstrom and the U-Foes' memory device, Thompson learned that the symbiote transferred not only the Ararat clone to Benton but his Hell-Mark as well, which both increased her inner aggression and gave her the ability to command Hellfire and demons. Agent Venom and Mania fended off two attempts by the D.O.A. to hunt her for the Hell-Mark, one of which resulted in D.O.A.'s demons killing Lord Ogre; Thompson vowed to free Benton of her burgeoning demonic corruption. Thompson eventually quit the Thunderbolts, concerned that the lethal methods employed by the group were beginning to appeal to the violent nature of his symbiote. While investigating someone assuming the Crime-Master persona, Thompson was captured by Spider-Man (secretly Doctor Octopus/Otto Octavius possessing Peter Parker's body) and separated from the symbiote by Octavius, who believed he was doing Thompson a favor. However, the symbiote bonded to "Spider-Man" and rampaged through the city. Through these events, Thompson learned Project: Rebirth's drugs had made him dependent on the symbiote and that hours of separation would kill him; he regained the symbiote with the Avengers' assistance.

Agent Venom accepted an assignment from Iron Man (Tony Stark) to join the star-faring Guardians of the Galaxy. Though he served the Guardians honorably and was delighted at life in space, Agent Venom was frequently targeted by Skrull militants wanting the symbiote. Additionally, attempts by other symbiotes to mentally summon the Venom symbiote inadvertently triggered its mental instability. The symbiote eventually hijacked the Guardians' spacecraft and traveled

FIRST GUARDIANS UNIFORM

to the symbiote planet, Klyntar, where apparently benevolent symbiotes there purified the Venom symbiote's imbalances and stabilized its bond with Thompson. These symbiotes inducted the duo into the Agents of the Cosmos, a group apparently dedicated to helping those in need throughout the universe; Agent Venom subsequently began answering calls for assistance both with the Guardians and as an Agent of the Cosmos. Eventually, he amassed a second crew of allies, including the service robot 803, the Wugin queen Iqa, the Ruu'lto Pik Rollo, and Rollo's daughter Hilla, all of whom, in one way or another, suffered because of the Gramosian warlord Mercurio. Agent Venom also encountered two other symbiote-bonded Agents of the Cosmos, Myntril and the Skrull Tarna, who were assigned to evaluate Thompson's performance. Though the purified symbiote was able to separate from him and move and speak autonomously for short periods, it began to descend into moments of rage caused by sympathetically experiencing Benton's demonic corruption. The Klyntar symbiotes healed Venom once again and then told Thompson of an elixir on the planet Wenb that could stave off Benton's corruption. Thompson's allies offered to obtain the elixir, urging him to return to Earth. Coincidentally, Agent Venom and the Guardians were summoned to Earth by former Guardian Captain Marvel (Carol Danvers) to help her deal with a schism among Earth's superhumans, enabling Thompson to seek out Benton, now nearly fully corrupted by her Hell-Mark. With the aid of the true Spider-Man (who had regained control of his body from Octavius) and his second group of allies (who had brought the elixir to Earth), Agent Venom healed Benton and her symbiote and decided to remain on Earth.

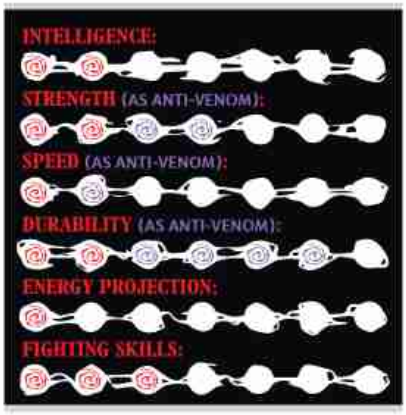
Agent Venom and Mania's renewed partnership was cut short when FBI Agent Wambaugh forcibly separated Thompson from his symbiote with sonic weaponry, attempting to capture it for the U.S. government. Thompson searched for the symbiote for weeks, unaware that it had briefly bonded with criminal ex-soldier Lee Price before ultimately reuniting with Brock. Thompson confronted Brock at the offices of Liz Allan's company Alchemax demanding the symbiote, but Spider-Man, misjudging the situation and seeking to end hostilities, doused them both in an Alchemax-made Anti-Venom serum. The serum somehow merged with Thompson and took the shape of armor that resembled a photo-negative version of his Agent Venom appearance. The armor afforded him superhuman powers again, including healing abilities, but rendered his touch toxic to symbiotes. Later, Price, who had assaulted Benton and stolen her

SECOND GUARDIANS UNIFORM (AFTER KLYNTAR PURIFICATION)

symbiote, took the name Maniac and planned to take control of New York's underworld, putting him at odds with Thompson and Spider-Man. Learning the Anti-Venom serum was just as toxic to Maniac's symbiote and could free anyone under its control, Thompson and Spider-Man, aided by Brock, Black Cat (Felicia Hardy), and a still-demonically powered Benton, battled and defeated Price. Appreciative of Brock's help, Thompson assented to the symbiote remaining with its former host.

Learning of Thompson's empowering through Alchemax security footage, Liz Allan recruited Thompson, who had resumed costumed heroics as Agent Anti-Venom, to help safeguard an offsite research project involving the highly destructive isotope tritium. Even with Spider-Man's aid, Thompson failed to prevent the Goblin King (Phil Urich) from stealing a tritium sample from the site, presumably to use as a weapon. At Allan's insistence, Thompson searched for the missing tritium and tracked it to Urich's hideout, finding Urich's mutilated corpse and learning that insane industrialist Norman Osborn (formerly the Green Goblin) had bonded with the Carnage symbiote, which he had stolen from the subaquatic Lock Box facility. Injured in battle with Osborn and aware his family and friends had been targeted by his foe, Spider-Man enlisted Agent Anti-Venom, the Human Torch (Johnny Storm), Clash (Clayton Cole), Silk (Cindy Moon), and neophyte Spider-Man Miles Morales to watch over his loved ones, but all five were brutally defeated in battle against Osborn. Thompson depleted much of the Anti-Venom stabilizing the other heroes and healing Spider-Man's injury. He then accompanied them to a hospital where he overheard Silk refer to Spider-Man by his real name and noticed Osborn had implanted fragments of Carnage within them as a means of remotely killing them. Agent Anti-Venom purged the Carnage fragments from the heroes and Spider-Man's loved ones, then rejoined Spider-Man as he battled Osborn, confiding his knowledge of Spider-Man's identity. With little Anti-Venom remaining to marshal a defense, Thompson was fatally electrocuted by Osborn. Thompson's dying words were to urge Spider-Man to stop Osborn, and to express his appreciation for his hero and friend. Some time later, the Maker (Reality-1610's Reed Richards) revealed to Venom that he had a sample of Thompson's blood taken by Project: PEGASUS prior to Thompson becoming Anti-Venom, one that apparently contained his symbiote's codex (the genetic imprint left in hosts by symbiotes). After absorbing this sample to prevent the Maker from having it, Venom could interact with Thompson's personality within the codex, but this aspect apparently "burnt out" after a time. If the Maker followed through with his stated plans of exhuming Thompson's corpse to perform additional symbiote research remains unrevealed.

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: As Anti-Venom, the biochemical serum bonded to Flash Thompson could form armor granting him a portion of the abilities he possessed as Agent Venom, including enhanced strength (presumably lifting up to 11 tons) and agility, protection from physical injury, surface adhesion, and the ability to project its substance as either webbing, tendrils, or offensive talons. Thompson could use the serum to rapidly heal physical wounds and illnesses in himself and others by neutralizing bodily impurities, up to and including reattaching severed limbs, though these healing abilities caused pain to symbiotes due to their alien biology. Excessive use of his healing ability would cause the Anti-Venom suit to lose structural integrity. As Agent Venom, he had all the powers of a symbiote-bonded human (very similar to his Anti-Venom powers, minus the healing attributes). Thompson often carried conventional firearms, with which he was proficient, and supplemented his arsenal with alien-made weaponry during his travels in space. After the Klyntar symbiotes purified the Venom symbiote, it could independently separate from Thompson for approximately an hour and could verbally speak while separated. A natural all-around athlete, Thompson kept himself in excellent physical condition even after the loss of his legs, and became adept in various wheelchair sports. He was a capable unarmed combatant thanks to his boxing background and his military experience.



FIRST APPEARANCE:
(Thompson) *Amazing Fantasy #15* (1962); (Venom) *Amazing Spider-Man #654* (2011); (Anti-Venom) *Amazing Spider-Man: Venom Inc. Alpha #1* (2018)

ART BY NICK BRADSHAW, STEFANO CASELLI, STUART IMMONEN, HUMBERTO RAMOS, VALERIO SCHITI, RYAN STEGMAN & BILLY TAN

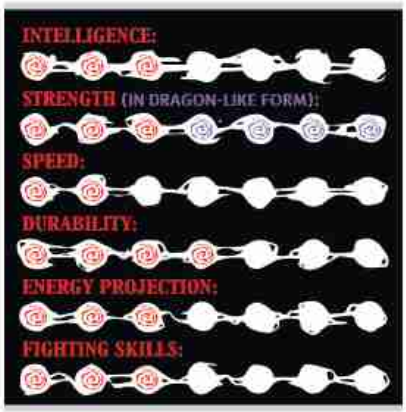
BIG MOTHER

REAL NAME: Unrevealed
ALIASES: Mother of all Dead Things, "Bane of Beowulf," "Grendel's Mother," "Hell-bride," "Hell-dam," "Mother of the Monster," "Tarn-hag"
IDENTITY: Secret
OCCUPATION: Servitor of Knull, possible Hell-lord; former professional wrestler, marauder
CITIZENSHIP: Unrevealed
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed region of space
KNOWN RELATIVES: Grendel (supposed offspring); Knull (creator)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly Federation of Women's Wrestling
EDUCATION: Unrevealed
HEIGHT: Variable
WEIGHT: Variable
EYES: Solid yellow
TENTACLES: Light maroon

HISTORY: Billions of years ago, while creating an army, ancient deity Knull created the precursors of the Symbiote race and used them to terrorize the universe. Two that resembled giant dragons (who would become known as Big Mother and Grendel) found Earth in the sixth century. When Grendel attacked a Scandinavian settlement, he was defeated by the Asgardian god Thor Odinson and became frozen in ice; retellings of this battle are believed to be the basis of the epic poem *Beowulf*. At some point in the subsequent centuries, through unrevealed circumstances, Big Mother became trapped in a magical prison until the wizard Merlin Demonspawn (formerly the Maha Yogi) freed her in modern times in hopes she could lead him to the Holy Grail. Angered at being treated as a lackey, Big Mother refused to cooperate, instead venturing into modern Los Angeles where talent agent Mordecai P. Boggs "discovered" her and entered her into the Federation of Women's Wrestling. At some point, Big Mother took up residence in a sunken shipwreck in the Upper New York Bay. After learning of her fellow symbiote Scream (Andi Benton), Big Mother became obsessed with parenting her and sent her pseudo-symbiote minions to capture her. After failing to lure Benton by impersonating her mother, the pseudo-symbiotes publicly attacked her, though Scream fought them off. During a later direct confrontation between the two, Scream hanged Big Mother from a construction crane until Big Mother's weight forced her body to split from her head; despite this, Scream surmised Big Mother was not permanently dead. The FBI took custody of Big Mother's remains.

NOTES: *A being resembling Big Mother appeared to attend a meeting of Hell-lords in Hell; whether this was actually Big Mother is unrevealed. Though created at the same time, Big Mother is largely accepted as Grendel's mother. Considering Knull's creations' vulnerability to fire, depictions of Big Mother and Grendel breathing fire remain unexplained.*

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES (ABRIDGED): Big Mother was a shapechanger whose known forms included a winged dragon and a humanlike form, and ranged from 10'-35'. She was a sorceress whose full abilities were unrevealed, and a skilled hand-to-hand combatant, but she generally relied more on greater size and strength in fights. She could create symbiote servitors of her own, though they were "watered down" versions that were typically bonded to deceased hosts. She carefully guarded her true name to prevent it being used to summon her and bind her in servitude.



FIRST APPEARANCE: *Captain Marvel #20* (2001)

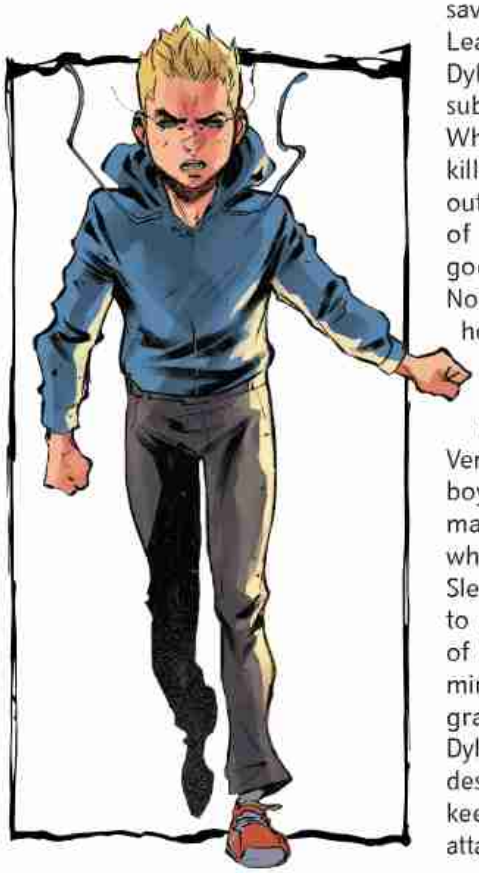
ART BY CHRIS MOONEYHAM

DYLAN BROCK

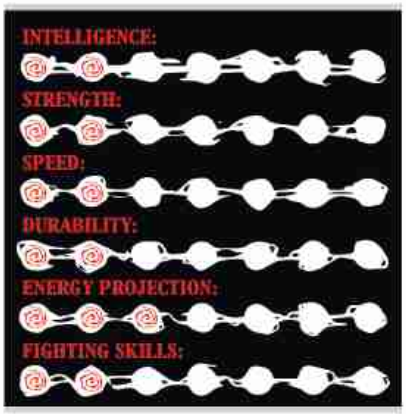
SYMBIOTE CONTROLLING POWERS

REAL NAME: Dylan Brock
ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Student
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
KNOWN RELATIVES: Eddie Brock (alleged father), Anne Weying (mother, deceased), Venom (alleged partial genetic contributor), Carl Brock (supposed grandfather), Jamie Brock (supposed grandmother, deceased), Martha Brock (supposed great aunt, deceased), various relations through Venom symbiote
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Elementary school student
HEIGHT: 4'8"
WEIGHT: 76 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Blond

HISTORY: At some point, longtime Venom symbiote host Eddie Brock and former host Anne Weying (Brock's ex-wife) apparently conceived a child, though Weying has alluded to no traditional conception occurring. The fetus apparently received genetic material from the symbiote, including Anne's symbiote-codex, a genetic imprint left in all symbiote hosts. Unable to care for the baby, which she named Dylan, Anne left him with his paternal grandfather, Carl Brock, and soon after committed suicide; growing up, Dylan believed Carl was his father. Years later, Dylan met Eddie, believing him to be his half brother, and asked him to save him from his abusive "father." Learning from his symbiote that Dylan was allegedly his son, Eddie subsequently took Dylan from Carl. When symbiote-wearing serial killer Carnage (Cletus Kasady) set out to acquire the symbiote-codex of all hosts to revive symbiote god Knull, Dylan and new friend Normie Osborn (a former symbiote host) stayed in the care of Eddie's ally Maker (Reed Richards of Earth-1610). When the Life Foundation symbiotes attacked, Venom's spawn Sleeper rescued the boys, following which Dylan began manifesting superhuman abilities when he forcibly took control of Sleeper; doing so allowed Sleeper to see an unrevealed true nature of Dylan. Shortly after, Carnage's minion Norman Osborn (Normie's grandfather) targeted the boys; Dylan used his abilities to apparently destroy Osborn's symbiote, secretly keeping a piece of it. Carnage soon attacked, eager to claim Dylan as the final codex needed to awaken Knull. Eddie chose to rescue Dylan by absorbing the Carnage symbiote, which resulted in Knull's revival. During this moment, Dylan learned Eddie was allegedly his father, changing the tenor of their relationship for a time; Dylan chose to keep his developing abilities, the piece of Osborn's symbiote, and his true nature secret. When Eddie later battled the Carnage symbiote on the Caribbean Isla de Huesos, Dylan used the portion of the Osborn symbiote to access the Klyntar hive mind and remote-pilot the Venom symbiote to aid Eddie. After Dylan contacted the Avengers to rescue his father, Eddie took him to see the Maker to learn more about his abilities. There, the villainous Virus (Mac Gargan) inadvertently transported Eddie and Dylan to an Earth (Reality-1051) ruled by Codex (that reality's Dylan Brock). After Codex's defeat, Eddie and Dylan had to wait over a year for completion of the technology to return them home.



ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: **Dylan can control symbiotes and remote-pilot them through the symbiote hive mind, and while doing so, he has levitated; the full scope and definition of his abilities are unrevealed. Dylan apparently cannot be used as a symbiote host and when he touches them, they burn and experience pain.**



FIRST APPEARANCE: *Venom* #7 (2018)

ART BY IBAN COELLO & RYAN STEGMAN

CARNAGE

REAL NAME: Cletus Kasady
ALIASES: Symbiote of Vengeance, the Red Slayer, the Red Messiah, Cleavon Kasady, Corrupter, Carnage Cosmic, Spider-Carnage, impersonated Eddie Brock
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Servitor of Knull, cult leader, professional criminal, serial killer
CITIZENSHIP: USA, with a criminal record
PLACE OF BIRTH: Allegedly Ravencroft Institute for the Criminally Insane, Roosevelt Island, New York
KNOWN RELATIVES: (Kasady) unidentified mother (deceased), Roscoe (last name unrevealed, possible father or foster father, presumably deceased), Louise (last name unrevealed, possible stepmother or foster mother, deceased), "Nana" (supposed grandmother, presumably deceased), Cortland Kasady (ancestor); (original symbiote) Venom ("progenitor"), Agony, Lasher, Phage, Riot ("siblings," collectively known as Hybrid, apparently deceased), Scream, Sleeper ("siblings"), Dylan Brock (alleged "half brother"); (Negative Zone symbiote) Scorn, Toxin ("offspring"), Raze (possible "offspring"), other possible "offspring" used in Hall Industries' armors (including Burnt Orange, Firebrick, Gun Metal, Paris Green, and Royal Blue, all absorbed back into the symbiote); (Poison symbiote) none; (Grendel symbiote) none
GROUP AFFILIATION: Church of New Darkness, leader of the "Carnage family"; formerly the Frightful Four
EDUCATION: High school
HEIGHT: 4' (formerly 6'1"); variable (with increased mass)
WEIGHT: 165 lbs. (formerly 190 lbs.); variable (with increased mass)
EYES: Green
HAIR: Red

HISTORY: Much of what is known of Cletus Kasady's parentage and birth comes from secondhand sources or from Kasady's own recollections, which should be considered unreliable due to his fluid mental state. In modern times, a journal kept by Jonas Ravencroft, founder of the modern-day Ravencroft Institute for the Criminally Insane, detailed the incarceration of the murderer Cortland Kasady on the site of the future Ravencroft Institute two centuries before his apparent descendant Cletus. Cletus Kasady is believed to have been sired by an unidentified father and born to a paranoid schizophrenic mother after she was interred at the Ravencroft Institute. According to a cult leader named Scorn (Tanis Nieves), Kasady died shortly after birth due to an umbilical cord strangulation. Per her account, an adult Kasady testified to a court-appointed psychologist that he remembered going to Hell as an infant, and being trapped in "a cage of endless abyss" before being returned to life. Kasady's mother died shortly after childbirth, so the boy was apparently sent to live with "Nana," his supposed grandmother in Brooklyn, New York. A later psychic review of Kasady's mind revealed memories of Kasady possibly killing Nana by pushing her wheelchair down some stairs, then being sent to live with Roscoe and Louise, who were either foster parents or Kasady's actual father and stepmother. Sometime after the abusive Roscoe inadvertently killed Louise, Kasady was sent to the St. Estes Home for Boys. According to Scorn, Kasady's experiences in Hell helped him form a pre-teen devotion to freeing others from the "cage of life," leading him to burn down St. Estes, committing his first mass murder. Later, after being convicted of being a serial killer, the adult Kasady was sentenced to eleven consecutive life terms. While imprisoned, Kasady was beaten by cellmate Eddie Brock, who was imprisoned for crimes committed as Venom, a murderous human/alien symbiote hybrid. When the symbiote broke Brock out of prison, an offspring left behind by the creature merged with Kasady, granting him superhuman abilities. As the bloodthirsty Carnage, Kasady continued his serial mass murders, which brought him into repeated conflicts with Venom, Spider-Man (Peter Parker), and other superhuman protectors of Earth, but also connected him with fellow superhuman sociopaths, with whom Carnage formed a surrogate family. After Carnage repeatedly escaped incarceration from the Ravencroft Institute, his symbiote was forcibly absorbed by Venom, leaving Kasady powerless and in shock until he bonded with his second symbiote, one found in the Negative Zone. Eventually, during a superhuman breakout from Ryker's Island prison, the superhumanly strong Sentry (Robert Reynolds) took Carnage to outer space and tore him in two.

WITH PROSTHETIC LEGS

MASS CARNAGE

MICROVERSE HYBRID ARMY

WITH FRIGHTFUL FOUR

DARKHOLD-CORRUPTED

The symbiote nearly starved to death keeping Kasady alive until weapons manufacturer Hall Industries retrieved them over a year later. Hall harvested live tissue samples from the symbiote, developing prosthetics such as Kasady's new legs, symbiotic armor for Hall's security team, and psychiatrist Tanis Nieves' prosthetic arm. After Carnage escaped, he absorbed the security team's symbiotic armor and increased his mass to monstrous proportions. Nieves bonded with the symbiote in her prosthesis (Carnage's "daughter"), becoming Scorn, and forced her former patient Shriek (Frances Barrison) to use her sonic powers to separate Carnage from his extra mass. Carnage eventually fled to the small meat-packing community of Doverton, Colorado, declaring it the capital of a sovereign symbiotic state in his bid for world domination. Feeding on cattle to increase his mass again, Carnage enslaved nearly the entire town. The Avengers and a number of the U.S. Emergency Response Center's operatives: Scorn, four symbiote-enhanced soldiers dubbed Mercury Team created with symbiotes taken from the symbiote amalgamation Hybrid (Scott Washington), and Agent Venom (Eugene "Flash" Thompson) resisted Carnage. During the battle Kasady was separated from his symbiote, which caused his prosthetic legs to crumble. He was subsequently taken into custody, his symbiote captured by Scorn and secreted away, though remnants of the symbiote within Kasady's DNA apparently regenerated to a full symbiote. At some point Kasady apparently regained a lower body and legs through unrevealed means. Later, assassins from the Microverse dimension procured Carnage from Thunderbolts Mountain Maximum Security Prison for their master, Marquis Radu, to murder Microverse messiah, the Redeemer. Agent Venom and Scarlet Spider (Kaine) pursued them to the Microverse via the Prometheus Pit, a device for interdimensional teleportation. There, Marquis Radu captured Carnage and Agent Venom and cloned their symbiotes to create an army, which Carnage quickly took over and used to destroy Radu's mobile base, then returned to the Macroverse. Following him, Agent Venom defeated Carnage and his army of miniatures with a Microverse disruptor device. Scarlet Spider then lobotomized Kasady, oblivious this gave the symbiote full control. Not long after, the Wizard (formerly Bentley Wittman) sought to mentally enslave Carnage for his Frightful Four and freed him from an undisclosed containment facility, unaware Kasady's mind was catatonic and impervious to mind control. Wizard transferred the symbiote to the paraplegic, immoral scientist Dr. Karl Malus, enslaved his mind, and blew up the facility, leaving Kasady to be killed. Wizard soon lost control of Carnage due to injuries sustained in battle with Spider-Man (Otto Octavius possessing Peter Parker's body). Octavius eventually lured the symbiote away using Kasady, who had apparently survived but was badly burned. After Wizard's ally Ulysses Klaw used sonics to defeat Carnage, Octavius captured the symbiote and turned Kasady over to the authorities but secretly kept the symbiote; it was later determined Kasady's re-exposure to the symbiote healed his brain damage and apparently the burns.

Over the next few months, Octavius sent chemically neutered samples of the symbiote to independent facilities for study, but the symbiote's telepathic bond with Kasady remained strong. When Kasady was stabbed by a fellow inmate in the Kramer Penitentiary in Hague, New Jersey, overwhelming stress killed the symbiote, but a sample found at Morse Laboratories in

POISON CARNAGE

RESURRECTED WITH GRENDEL SYMBIOTE

SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE

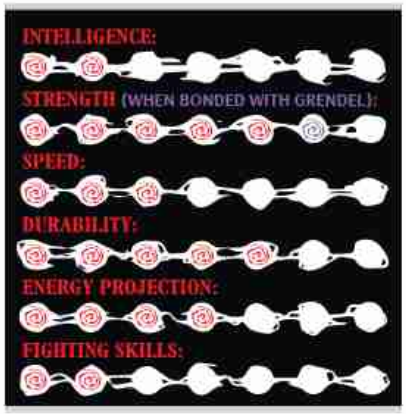
Albuquerque, New Mexico, took various hosts on a cross-country journey to reunite with Kasady. Corrupt prison psychiatrist Dr. Jenner killed Kasady, hoping to bond with the symbiote, but it rejected Jenner and reclaimed Kasady's corpse, resurrecting him before going on a killing spree within the prison and escaping. A resulting nationwide manhunt proved fruitless, but the mentally unstable mercenary Deadpool ("Wade Wilson") believed he received signs to stop Carnage. Outside Tulsa, Oklahoma, Kasady had an epiphany that he needed a return to random bloodshed. Stumbling upon Mercury Team's top-secret military complex, Carnage slaughtered them, leaving their symbiotes to briefly bond with Deadpool. At Carrington Cottage Psychiatric Hospital, Deadpool convinced Carnage his actions were predictable, breaking his spirit, and Carnage surrendered. Later, not wanting to live in a world under the control of the psychically powered Red Skull (Johann Shmidt), Carnage joined Magneto (Max Eisenhardt) in opposing him and was exposed to an inversion spell that reversed his morality, prompting him to abduct respected news anchor Alice Gleason so she could provide him with heroic tutelage. A supernatural, guilt-devouring Sin-Eater targeted Gleason, but Carnage overloaded him with all his repressed guilt, pain, and wickedness. Carnage then smothered a gene bomb in Manhattan designed to kill all non-mutants, but survived the blast. Later, he and other inverted villains, as the "Axis of Evil," claimed responsibility for the villainous actions the inverted heroes committed, knowing it was the only way for the world to trust them again, promising to conceal the truth even after the heroes were returned to normal; at some point, Nova (Sam Alexander) innocently disclosed his civilian identity when meeting Carnage at Avengers Mansion. When the inversion spell was negated, Carnage threatened Nova's life in Carefree, Arizona, because he didn't want to be remembered as a hero, but he was defeated by the teen hero.

An "unofficial" task force, under FBI Agent Claire Dixon's supervision, lured Carnage to Grey Ridge Mine in West Virginia with the sole survivor of the St. Estes' Home for Boys slaughter, Manuela Calderon. Mine owner and secret *Darkhold* cultist Barry Gleason tried to sacrifice Carnage, which would fulfill the Red Slayer prophecy and raise the Elder God Chthon. Kasady's blood mixed with the *Darkhold*'s enchanted pages, allowing Carnage to command the cultists. Obsessed with the book, Carnage headed to the Temple of Chthon on an uncharted island in the Timor Sea to unlock its full potential. Carnage eventually awoke Chthon, expecting remuneration, but was harshly dismissed. Overcome by numerous enemies, Kasady was delivered to the FBI. Crazed businessman Norman Osborn (formerly Green Goblin) became the Red Goblin after he hired mercenaries to retrieve the Carnage symbiote from the maximum security Lock Box facility, deep in the Atlantic Ocean, but the symbiote was apparently destroyed battling Spider-Man (Peter Parker). It is unclear whether this was the symbiote captured by Scorn in Doverton, Colorado, or another taken from Kasady while in FBI custody.

Later, the Poisons, a species that harvests symbiotes and consumes their hosts, abducted Kasady from Ravencroft and forced him to bond with a new symbiote linked to the Poison hive mind, forcing the symbiote already intertwined with his DNA into dormancy. Carnage was stranded in space following

the Poison Queen's defeat and was eventually drawn into Earth's orbit, where the Poison symbiote broke off. The symbiote remaining in his DNA allowed Kasady to survive reentry, but Kasady was so badly burned his legs were destroyed and he died shortly after landing; it is unclear if the symbiote survived. Kasady's body was taken by Knull cultists led by Scorn, possibly under Knull's influence. The cultists used a portion of Knull's dragon-like servitor Grendel, stolen from the Maker (Reed Richards of Earth-1610), to resurrect Carnage with restored legs and healed burns. The connection to Knull motivated Carnage to collect codices (genetic imprints left by symbiotes in all hosts), starting with Scorn's, intending to awaken Knull when enough were gathered. Carnage returned to Doverton, established the Church of New Darkness to stockpile more codices, and created an obedient army using brain parasites, controlling them with spires on both coasts. Carnage killed former symbiotic host and Spirit of Vengeance Alejandra Jones, briefly displaying a Ghost Rider's attributes, stalked former symbiotic super hero Mania (Andrea "Andi" Benton), and sought revenge on Deadpool. Gaining tremendous power after absorbing the Venom symbiote bonded to Hulk (Bruce Banner), Kasady nearly slew Brock's alleged son, Dylan, but Brock, empowered by numerous codices, tore Kasady's spine out, killing him, though Kasady's personality apparently survived within the Carnage symbiote, which attempted to forcibly bond to Brock. On Isla De Huesos, Brock, along with Venom and remote help from Dylan, using apparent symbiote-controlling powers, successfully cast Carnage out. The symbiote survived and fled the island by apparently bonding to a shark.

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES (ABRIDGED): Kasady was the host for at least four symbiotic alien creatures over time, at least one of which bonded with his blood cells and DNA, making it impossible to completely remove without killing him. The Carnage symbiotes each shared a telepathic bond with their hosts. For unrevealed reasons, each symbiote tended to conform to Kasady's personality and the general appearance of his original symbiote, even when separated from him; the Poison symbiote was a partial exception, maintaining portions of its white coloring and "crystalline" edges. Each symbiote granted Kasady super strength (lifting roughly 10 to 50 tons; the Grendel symbiote let him lift 75 tons), enhanced durability and stamina; the symbiotes have shown great ability to heal Kasady's mind and body (apparently greater than other symbiotes), even resurrecting him after death, and have apparently allowed his consciousness to survive within the symbiote after the death of his body. Carnage could stick to walls and generate tendrils to act as "swing lines" for travel. Like his "parent" symbiote, Venom, Carnage could create elongated claws and teeth, but he could also project parts of his symbiotes as various bladed weapons that disintegrated after approximately 10 seconds of separation. The symbiotes could absorb conventional small weapons fire, but they were vulnerable to heat-based attacks and sonics until gaining an immunity via the curse of the *Darkhold*; it is unclear whether the Grendel incarnation of Carnage retained this immunity. They could mimic clothing, impersonate other people, deaden Spider-Man's spider-sense to a degree, and block Venom's ability to track its offspring. Kasady could manipulate others by covering them with his symbiote, but the more individuals covered, the more concentration was required to maintain control. Kasady learned to increase his symbiote's mass by absorbing (or consuming) other symbiotes or large quantities of meat; after absorbing the Hall Industries symbiotic armor, Kasady projected himself through biofeedback in a data stream, threatening a hostile takeover of the computer systems of Iron Man (Tony Stark). For a time, Kasady wore a prosthetic lower body and legs that were powered by the symbiote, but they crumbled when separated from the symbiote. Kasady was a skilled street fighter and diagnosed sociopathic narcissist that didn't feel guilt, remorse, pity, or compassion.



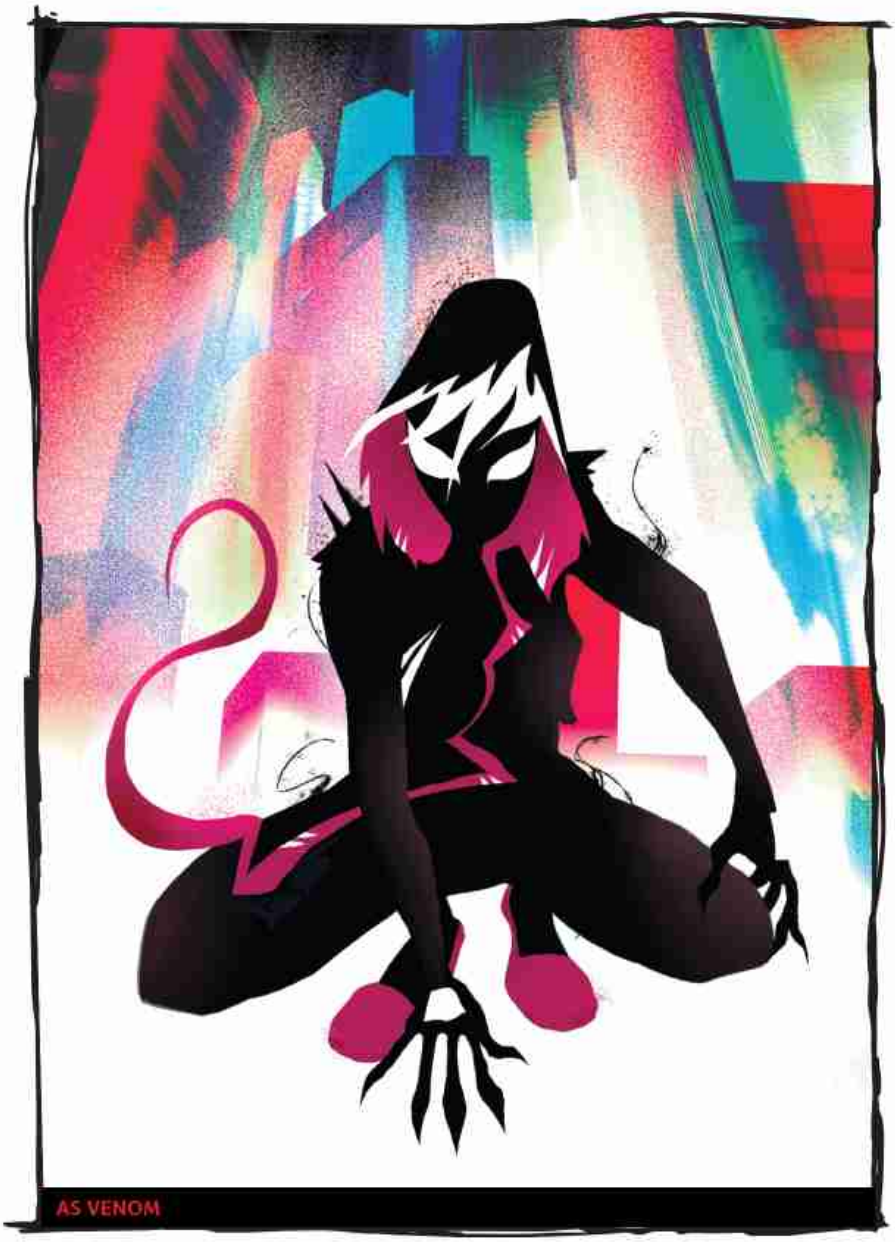
FIRST APPEARANCE: (Cletus Kasady) *Amazing Spider-Man #344* (1991); (Carnage) *Amazing Spider-Man #361* (1992)

ART BY DANILO S. BEYRUTH, IBAN COELLO, CLAYTON CRAIN, JUAN FRIGERI, FRANCESCO MOBILI, MIKE PERKINS, STEPHEN SEGOVIA, DECLAN SHALVEY & RYAN STEGMAN

GHOST-SPIDER

REAL NAME: Gwendolyn Maxine "Gwen" Stacy
ALIASES: Formerly Spider-Woman, "Spider-Gwen," Venom, "Gwenom"; impersonated the Prime Reality's Gwen Stacy clone
IDENTITY: Publicly known on Earth-65, known to authorities in Prime Reality
OCCUPATION: Student, musician; former bodega clerk
CITIZENSHIP: USA, with a criminal record (Earth-65)
PLACE OF BIRTH: Forest Hills, Queens, New York (Earth-65)
GROUP AFFILIATIONS: Order of the Web; formerly Mary Janes, Web-Warriors
HEIGHT: 5'5"
WEIGHT: 125 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Blonde

HISTORY: On the alternate Earth-65, a radioactive spider created by Cindy Moon's subversive S.I.L.K. organization bit teenage musician Gwen Stacy and gave her superhuman spiderlike powers. Gwen became the costumed Spider-Woman for thrills and fame, but her carefree lifestyle ended when her friend Peter Parker, inspired by Spider-Woman's superhuman feats, used a mutagenic serum to gain powers but instead became the monstrous Lizard. After Parker died in battle with her, Gwen swore that she would make his death meaningful by fighting for justice in his name, even if it meant defying the law as a vigilante. As a super hero, she battled the Rhino (Alexei Sytsevich), the Vulture (Adrian Toomes), and Hand ninja clan leader/lawyer Matt Murdock; she was also drawn into a multiversal war of spider-heroes against the vampiric Inheritors of Earth-001, after which she joined the cross-dimensional Web-Warriors to repair the damage the Inheritors had done. She struggled to balance superheroics with her obligations to her father, NYPD Captain George Stacy (who didn't arrest Gwen after learning of her secret identity), and her bandmates in the Mary Janes. She faced a personal crisis when her old friend Harry Osborn hunted her down as the costumed Green Goblin, believing she killed Parker. Despite Osborn using the Lizard serum to increase his power, Gwen bested him, and even though he learned her identity, she ultimately let him escape.



AS VENOM

A visit from Prime Reality spider-heroes Spider-Woman (Jessica Drew) and Silk (Cindy Moon) turned into a crisis when S.I.L.K. stole Gwen's dimensional travel device, using it to steal advanced technology from the Prime Reality; in the ensuing conflict, Earth-65's Moon deactivated Gwen's powers, but was still defeated by the trio. A penitent S.I.L.K. agent gave Gwen an isotope activator, a device that gave her temporary doses of spider-powers; however, it had a limited number of charges. She briefly contemplated giving up her Spider-Woman identity entirely, but soon a new challenge presented itself when unstable police officer and ex-mercenary Frank Castle became obsessed with defeating her. Castle retreated in shame when George Stacy's partner, Jean DeWolff, pointed out that his destructive pursuit of Spider-Woman made him as much of a criminal as her, and George himself surrendered to the police, confessing to abetting Spider-Woman by knowingly allowing her to operate; George was subsequently sent to jail. Concerned for her father's safety, Gwen made a deal with Murdock: In exchange for his help in providing her father's legal defense, she would owe him her service. Murdock further exerted his power over Gwen by acquiring a new supply of power doses from the imprisoned Moon.

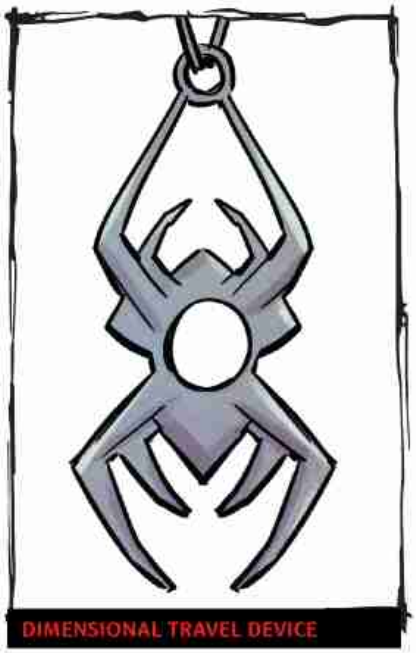
Learning that numerous realities had been devastated by a variant of the Carrion virus accidentally unleashed by Peter Parkers from other realities, Gwen teamed with the Prime Reality's Scarlet Spider (Kaine) to stop New U, a cloning company run by the Prime Reality's Ben Reilly, which threatened to unleash a similar plague on his Earth; she posed as Reilly's second-in-command, a clone of his Earth's deceased Gwen Stacy. With help from Spider-Man (the Prime Reality's Peter Parker), they shut down New U and averted disaster. In another multiversal adventure, Murdock sent Gwen to stop rogue S.I.L.K. operative Scorpion (Jefferson Davis) from fulfilling schemes that could threaten Murdock's interests in S.I.L.K.; she joined forces with Spider-Man (Miles Morales), whose father, Earth-1610's counterpart of Davis, was trying to stop the Scorpion for S.H.I.E.L.D. The two ultimately prevailed with the help of their counterparts from Earth-8, who had married each other and started a family of super heroes; both Miles and Gwen found the idea uncomfortable, and decided to merely remain friends.

Irked that she let the Scorpion live, Murdock gave Spider-Woman another mission of tracking down the fugitive Harry Osborn then using a radioactive isotope to mutate the Lizard Serum inside him into an artificial Venom symbiote and extract it; Gwen remained unaware Murdock secretly intended for the symbiote to take Gwen as a host. In Madripoor, she found Harry and used the isotope on him, but the symbiote soon claimed Gwen. However, Gwen and the symbiote bonded — preventing it from overwhelming her — which restored her lost powers.

Soon, Gwen learned her father had been left comatose after being beaten by the Rhino, Murdock's agent in the jail, apparently in retaliation for Gwen failing to bring in Osborn. With her symbiote feeding her negative emotions, Gwen went on a brutal rampage through Murdock's organization. Finally, she confronted and defeated Murdock, shaming him in the eyes of the Hand; she refused to kill him, however, and let S.H.I.E.L.D. arrest him. Afterward, tired of running from justice, she surrendered herself to the police. Put on trial and convicted for her vigilante activities, the court showed leniency for her heroism, sentencing her to only one year in prison. During her time in prison, Gwen's symbiote healed her father and brought him out of his coma.

SYMBIOTE SPIDERS

Released from prison after a year, Gwen tried to rebuild her life and relationships with her father (who had been released during Gwen's incarceration), the Mary Janes, and Harry Osborn, but her new notoriety and public identity made these tasks difficult, as she was fawned over by admirers and targeted by enemies. When the Inheritors returned, the Web-Warriors summoned Gwen to action, but during the battle her dimensional travel device was damaged, accidentally sending Gwen to Earth-3109, where she faced an alternate version of herself who had become the Green Goblin, and helped that Gwen's friends cure her of her madness. Grateful for her help, Gwen of Earth-3109 helped repair her dimensional travel device, allowing her to rejoin the fight against the Inheritors. While Gwen, the Web-Warriors, and other spider-themed allies were victorious, the Web of Life and Destiny was destroyed during the battle, ending the Web-Warriors' interdimensional access; however, Gwen could still use her repaired device to travel between worlds.

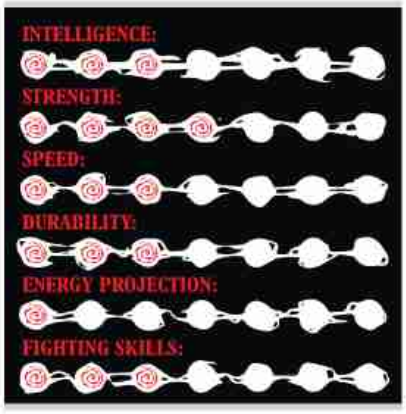


DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL DEVICE

Back home on Earth-65, Gwen clashed with the lupine Man-Wolf (John Jameson) and his gang, but they retaliated against her by bombing a Mary Janes concert, critically injuring Harry Osborn. Needing a place where her identity was still secret, she began commuting to attend courses at the Prime Reality's Empire State University, thanks to a recommendation from that reality's Peter Parker and an academic scholarship. Feeling haunted by the deaths she experienced in her life, and needing a new codename when in this reality due to its own native Spider-Woman, she dubbed herself Ghost-Spider. Gwen still encountered danger, clashing with Jackal (Miles Warren), who was obsessed with the Prime Reality's Gwen Stacy when she was alive, and stumbling into one of the assassin Arcade's malfunctioning Murderworlds.

On Earth-65 Stacy believed she had found new allies when super-powered social media influencers Susan and Johnny Storm became public figures, but she soon realized they were both sociopathic and craved her fame and adulation. They threatened the safety of her friends unless she left, leaving them as New York's sole heroes. To protect her loved ones, Stacy journeyed to the Prime Reality, intending to make it her new home for the time being. There, she joined with several spider-powered allies in the Order of the Web — the Web-Warriors' successors, formed after the Web of Life and Death had been rebuilt — to aid Spider-Man against the mysterious Kindred (Harry Osborn).

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Ghost-Spider wears an artificial Venom symbiote, composed of a swarm of tiny spiderlike creatures that grants her superhuman strength (lifting approximately 10 tons), endurance, agility, lets her cling to surfaces, and grants a spider-sense that warns her of danger. It can form her costume, mimic other clothing, or camouflage her appearance. It can also generate ensnaring tendrils or organic webbing, heal Gwen's injuries, and provide Gwen with oxygen when her airway is restricted. High-intensity sound or heat can disrupt the bond between Gwen and her symbiote. Due to her mental bond with the spiders, she can use them as semi-autonomous scouts. To fuel her symbiote, Stacy must consume a cellulose-heavy diet. She wears a device on a necklace that allows her to travel between alternate Earths. Previously, she relied on a S.I.L.K. isotope activator to give her temporary doses of spider-powers and she employed a pair of wrist-mounted mechanical web-shooters that she used to create weblines, web-cocoons, or impromptu "web-wings." She also formerly used a wrist device to communicate and travel between alternate realities with the Web-Warriors. She is a skilled drummer.



FIRST APPEARANCE: (Spider-Woman) *Edge of Spider-Verse #2* (2014); (Venom) *Spider-Gwen #24* (2017); (Ghost-Spider) *Spider-Gwen: Ghost-Spider #10* (2019)

ART BY IG GUARA, ROSI KÄMPE, TAKESHI MIYAZAWA, JORGE MOLINA & ROBBI RODRIGUEZ

GRENDEL

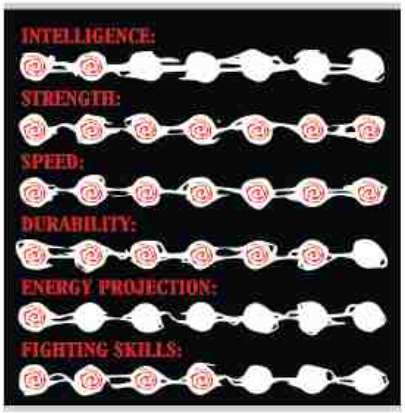
REAL NAME: Grendel
ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Servitor of Knull, marauder
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed region of space
KNOWN RELATIVES: Big Mother (supposed mother), Knull (creator)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: None
HEIGHT: Variable
WEIGHT: Variable
EYES: Solid white
HAIR: None

HISTORY: Billions of years ago, the ancient deity Knull created an army of the precursors of the Symbiote race, and set them loose to ravage the cosmos. Two resembling giant dragons, later dubbed Grendel and Big Mother, came to Earth in the sixth century. They raided a settlement in Scandinavia, and faced the Norse god Thor Odinson. Thor defeated Grendel, and it sank beneath the sea, where it became frozen in ice. In 1965, Project S.H.I.E.L.D. (which preceded the formal peacekeeping S.H.I.E.L.D. by decades) recovered and revived Grendel, taking samples of it to bond to human subjects. Project S.H.I.E.L.D. deployed the resulting Sym-Soldiers to fight in the Vietnam War. However, agonizing tests the researchers put Grendel through drove the symbiotes and their hosts insane; most were permanently put in stasis, but one escaped by mimicking its dead host, Rex Strickland. Eventually, the program was shuttered, and Grendel placed in stasis; however, the secretive Weapon Plus program acquired several Grendel samples, which they cloned to produce psychically baffled, symbiote-powered armor, dubbed "Weapon V," under the supervision of Dr. Andrew Breen, a secret Knull cultist. In recent years, S.H.I.E.L.D. collapsed, and Grendel was scheduled to be destroyed — but while in transit, the symbiote vigilante Venom (Eddie Brock) accidentally freed it while trying to rescue the Sym-Soldiers on behalf of "Strickland." It rampaged through New York City and was confronted by Venom; Knull used Grendel as a conduit to speak to him, revealing the true origins of the Symbiote race. Brock weakened the creature with high-tech anti-symbiote weaponry, and "Strickland" sacrificed himself by restraining the creature as Brock pushed it into a blast furnace, apparently destroying it. Later, the amoral Maker (Earth-1610's Reed Richards) acquired a sample of Grendel; a Knull-worshipping cult stole it and used it to revive the serial killer Cletus Kasady as Carnage. During his quest for codices (remnants of symbiotes left in hosts), Carnage killed nearly all Weapon V personnel, presumably absorbing the cloned Grendel material, though the original samples remain in deep stasis under Weapon Plus' control. The Grendel fragment survived Kasady's apparent death and Brock's subsequent attempt to destroy it, later apparently bonding to a shark.

CREATION OF BIG MOTHER AND GRENDEL

NOTES: *Grendel should not be confused with the Dark Elf hybrid Grendell, though it is believed elements of both creatures' histories were used as inspiration for the epic poem* Beowulf; Supernatural Thrillers #3 *(1973) references Beowulf's foe as a "fearsome fire monster" but it is not clear if this is Grendel or Grendell. Though created at the same time, Grendel is largely accepted as the son of Big Mother. Considering symbiotes' vulnerability to fire, depictions of Big Mother and Grendel breathing fire remain unexplained.*

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Grendel was an immense, nigh-immortal dragon-like creature capable of traveling through space. Composed of living abyss, it could spawn numerous independent symbiotes from itself. It was vulnerable to intense sound and heat.



FIRST APPEARANCE: *Venom #1* (2018)

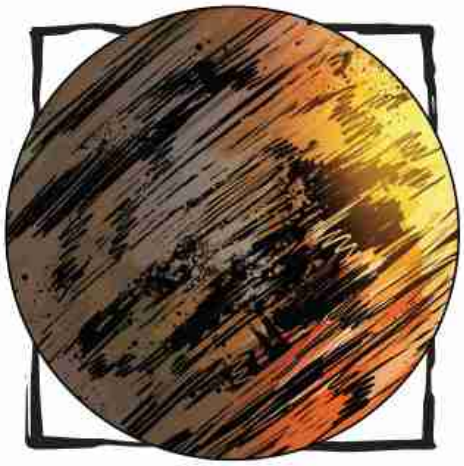
ART BY CHRIS MOONEYHAM & RYAN STEGMAN

KLYNTAR

NAME: Klyntar ("cage" in the symbiote language)
GALAXY: Milky Way
(60,000 light-years from Earth)
STAR SYSTEM: Unidentified binary stars
DIAMETER: 11,842 km
MASS: 7.2E+24 kg
ORBITAL DISTANCE: 1.8 AU to primary sun
MAJOR SATELLITES: Hundreds of asteroids
POPULATION: Near-incalculable (at time of destruction)
SIGNIFICANT INHABITANTS: Knull, Venom, Grendel, Big Mother, Agents of the Cosmos
SIGNIFICANT LOCATIONS: Agents of the Cosmos headquarters including an arena, Knull's prison at the center of the planet

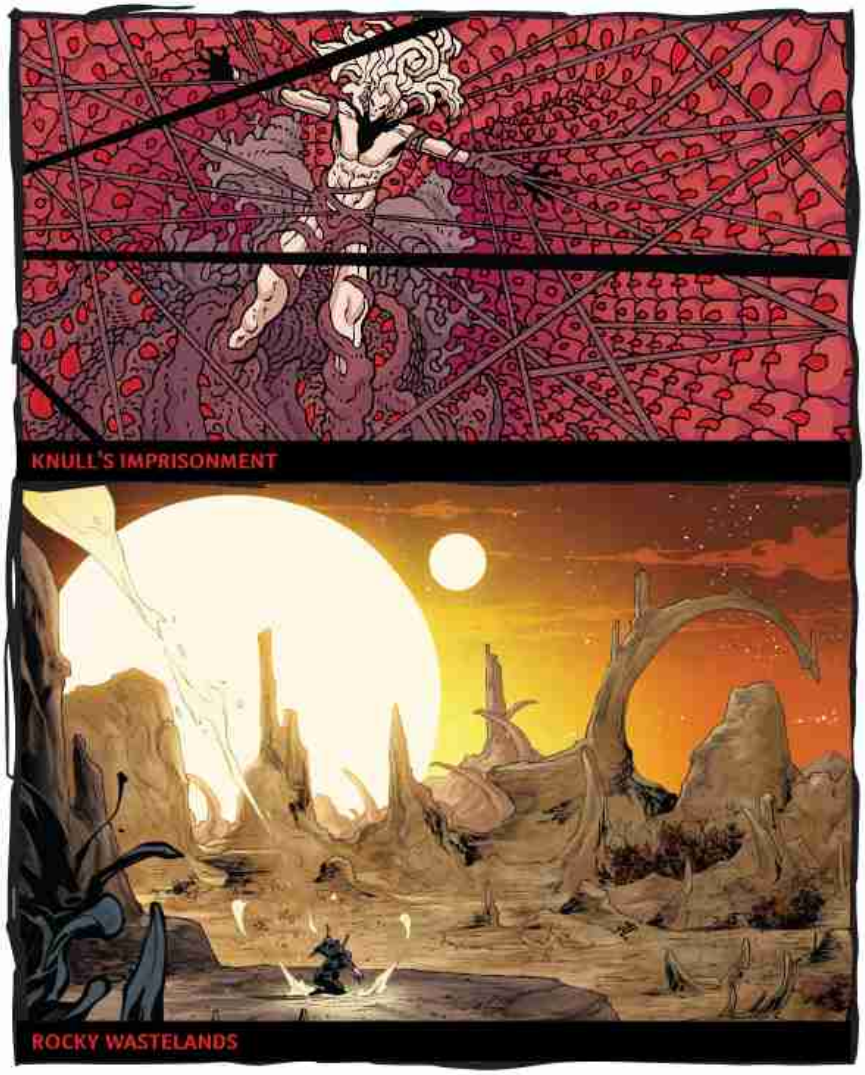
HISTORY: Approximately 3,000 years ago, the ancient elder god Knull created his latest servants, a race of symbiotic creatures, which he controlled through a hive mind, using them to terrorize the universe. During one such attack on the planet Earth, the Asgardian god Thor severed Knull's connection to his symbiotes while battling his dragon-like servitor, Grendel; freed from Knull's control, the symbiotes spread throughout the universe seeking out hosts with which to bond and becoming "infected" by notions of honor and nobility. Untethered from Knull's control, the symbiotes spawned endlessly, rose up against their creator, and trapped Knull within a planet-sized mass of symbiotes called Klyntar, their word for "cage."

Imprisoned at Klyntar's core, Knull slept while Klyntar somehow began to evolve into a planet, forming large rocky wastelands, lush symbiotic forests, and breeding caverns. The symbiotes also underwent a transformation, with some remaining in their recognizable liquid-like state near the planet's surface, and others taking on the shape of all kinds of flora and fauna. Free of Knull's influence, the symbiotes dedicated themselves to building a great society of noble warriors, but realized that to do so they would require hosts that met a perfect blend of moral and physical ideals. Hosts who fell short of this ideal often became monstrous and corrupted, spreading lies and half-truths about the symbiotes' intentions through the universe.



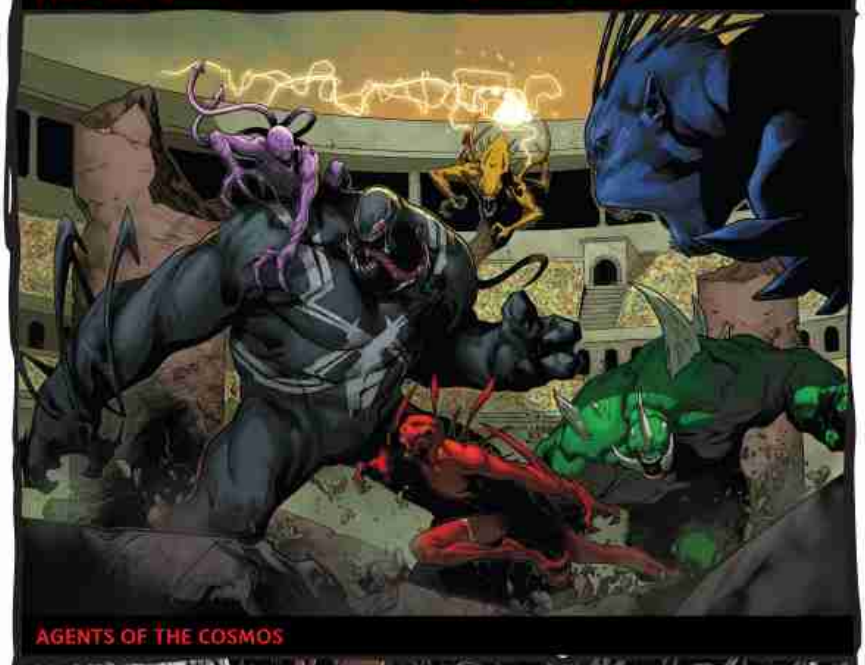
Eager to redeem themselves, the symbiotes sought out worthy hosts from various species, establishing the Agents of the Cosmos, an organization capable of sensing the "voices" of the Cosmos and dedicated to maintaining peace across the universe. The Agents of the Cosmos established a base on Klyntar, which included an arena where corrupted symbiotes could be purged of negative emotions and memories.

At some point in the past, while searching for planets for his master Galactus (Galan) to consume, the Silver Surfer (Norrin Radd) happened upon Klyntar, only to be trapped in the planet's core where he discovered the captive Knull before escaping. Later still, sometime during the Kree/Skrull War, the Kree harvested an outcast symbiote from Klyntar, believing it to be cognitively damaged, and bonded it with soldier Tel-Kar, who used it to infiltrate the Skrulls. This symbiote eventually made its way to Earth and became known as Venom. Over subsequent years, the Symbiotes monitored Venom. Believing he'd achieved true heroism after bonding with "Flash" Thompson, but aware the pair suffered from a broken symbiosis, the Symbiotes drew them and their Guardians of the Galaxy teammates to Klyntar to repair the damage. Unable to verbally communicate, the Symbiotes temporarily bonded with the Guardians to reveal their noble intentions before "curing" Venom and making him a proper

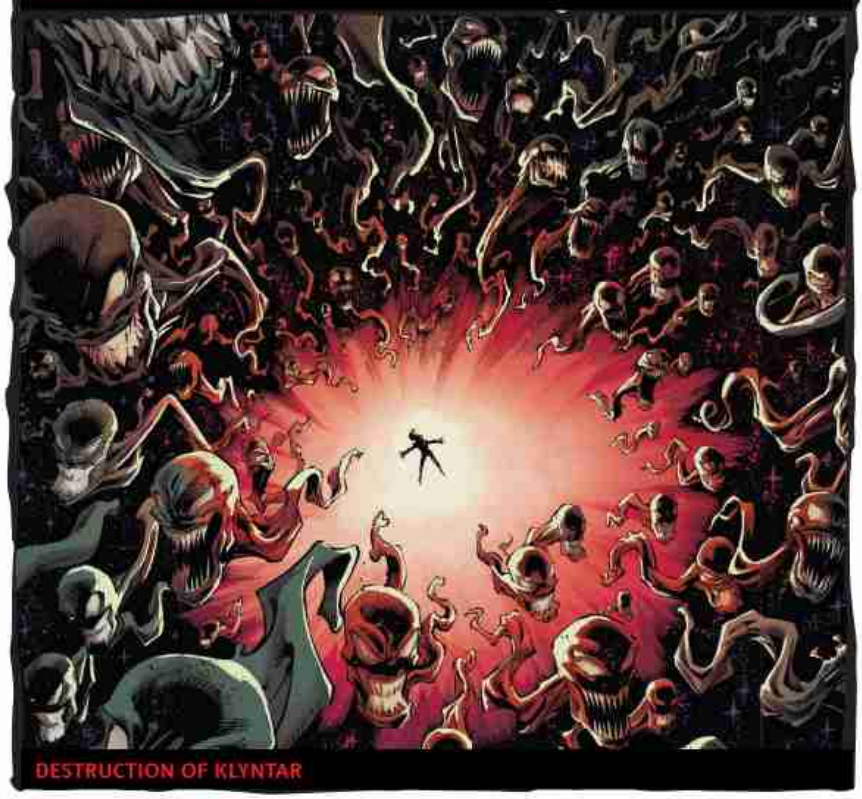


SYMBIOTIC FOREST

BREEDING CAVERNS



AGENTS OF THE COSMOS



DESTRUCTION OF KLYNTAR

Agent of the Cosmos, complete with a new appearance and enhanced abilities. However, the cure was incomplete, as a separate clone of Venom on Earth bore a Hell-Mark; still connected to the clone, Flash's symbiote continued to wrestle with rage, prompting Venom to return to Klyntar. Venom learned his problem's cause and returned to Earth to resolve it.

Sometime after this, the bounty hunter Haze Mancer captured many symbiotes from Klyntar to sell as biological weapons, using a chemical concoction to bind the symbiotes to their hosts. Five of these were sold to the space pirate Killer Thrill, which resulted in a clash with Venom and the time-displaced original X-Men. Meanwhile, the Poisons, a species that harvested symbiotes across the multiverse to consume their superhuman hosts, abducted symbiotes from Klyntar, using them to force Earth's superhumans to join their army, the Hive, and devastating the Agents of the Cosmos' ranks. The Hive's threat was ended when the combined forces of Venom and the time-displaced X-Men destroyed the Poison Queen. The symbiotes were then returned to Klyntar.

When the symbiotes' hold on Knull weakened, he used his control over symbiotes to make the long-dormant Grendel, and later Carnage (Cletus Kasady), retrieve codices from current and former symbiote hosts (genetic imprints left behind by symbiotes) to regain his power. Carnage gathered enough codices to fully awaken Knull, who then freed himself from the symbiotes' hold, destroying Klyntar in the process.

NOTE: *Klyntar is not to be confused with the unidentified planet near Klyntar, former home of Gorr the God Butcher and Knull's former base, nor the "Planet of the Symbiotes" from which symbiotes had attempted to invade Earth through a gateway into Upstate New York in 1995's Spider-Man family* Super Special *issues.*

FIRST APPEARANCE: ***Spider-Man Family #1* (2007); (identified) *Venom: Space Knight #12* (2016)**

ART BY IBAN COELLO, KIM JACINTO, TRADD MOORE, DIO NEVES, GERARDO SANDOVAL, VALERIO SCHITI & RYAN STEGMAN

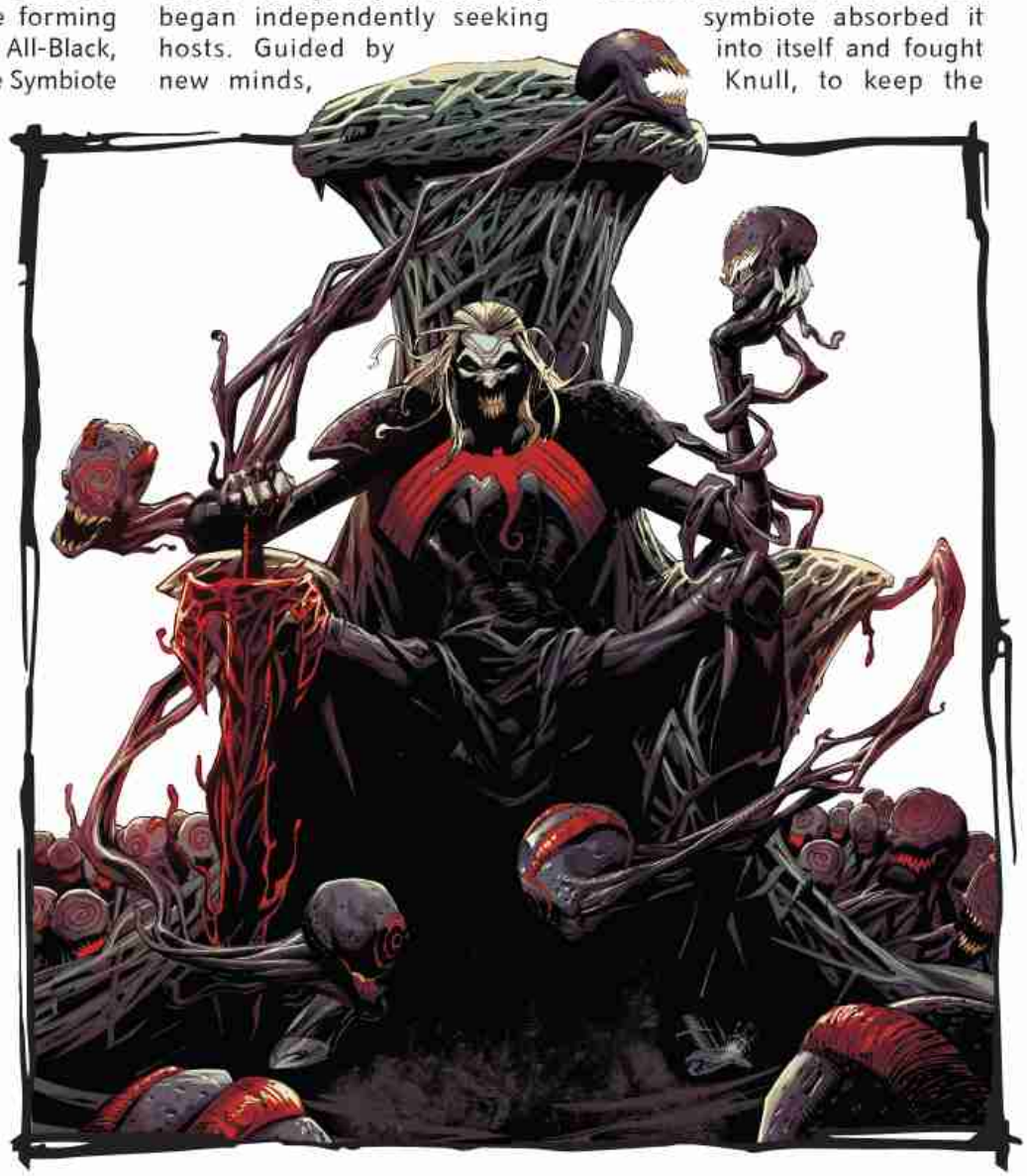
KNULL

REAL NAME: Knull
ALIASES: The King in Black, The Lord of the Great Unending Abyss, Lord of the Anti-Light, Abyss Made Flesh, Destroyer of Stars
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: God of symbiotes and darkness; former god of the forge
CITIZENSHIP: Inapplicable
PLACE OF BIRTH: The void before the Big Bang (presumably)
KNOWN RELATIVES: Every symbiote (creations)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Self-taught
HEIGHT: 8'10" (variable)
WEIGHT: 630 lbs.
EYES: Black (red pupils)
HAIR: White

HISTORY: Knull apparently came into existence in the endless void prior to the Big Bang. Content in the abyss, he was angered by creation, particularly the cosmic Celestials shaping matter in the forming universe, so he created All-Black, the first precursor to the Symbiote race and used it to behead a Celestial. After forging All-Black into a powerful sword inside the fallen Celestial's body, Knull sought to destroy brightness, slaying and enslaving gods and creating an army of servant creatures (other symbiote precursors, including some that resembled giant dragons) and a fortress on a distant world; while creating his army Knull discarded failed creature experiments in a realm later called the Exoteric Latitude. At some point in ancient history, a time-displaced Silver Surfer (Norrin Radd) encountered Knull, who attempted to enslave him. To escape, Surfer used his Power Cosmic to create a small star to blast Knull across the cosmos.

Approximately 3,000 years ago, Knull battled an unidentified god high above a nameless planet. The two gods crashed into the planet where they were discovered by the native Gorr, whose anger at gods over the suffering and death of his family caused All-Black to desert Knull and bond with Gorr. Gorr used All-Black to seemingly slay the two gods, although Knull survived. After All-Black was taken from him, Knull began creating fully symbiotic servants (modern symbiotes) and bonded them with the creatures of Gorr's world, formed a hive mind with himself at the center, then sending them throughout space to kill gods and terrorize worlds. Two dragon-like servitors came to Earth in the sixth century, where they became known as Big Mother and Grendel; the latter was defeated by the god Thor Odinson. Thor's lightning severed its connection with Knull and disrupted the hive mind, leaving symbiotes scattered across the galaxy where they began independently seeking hosts. Guided by new minds, symbiotes rose up against Knull, trapping him within a planet-sized mass of symbiotes called Klyntar, their word for "cage." Loyal symbiotes formed Knull cults, including one on Earth in the American colonies in 1664.

Centuries later, government agency Project S.H.I.E.L.D. (which preceded the peacekeeping S.H.I.E.L.D. by decades) discovered the frozen Grendel and took portions of it to form symbiote super-soldiers during the Vietnam War. In modern times, Grendel was accidentally revived by the symbiote-wearing Venom (Eddie Brock) and rampaged through Manhattan, where it was confronted by Venom and Spider-Man (Miles Morales). Knull manifested himself through Grendel and attempted to reclaim the Venom symbiote, but an interruption by Morales prevented the rebonding. Finding the final piece of Grendel, which had assumed the form of its deceased host Rex Strickland, the Venom symbiote absorbed it into itself and fought Knull, to keep the



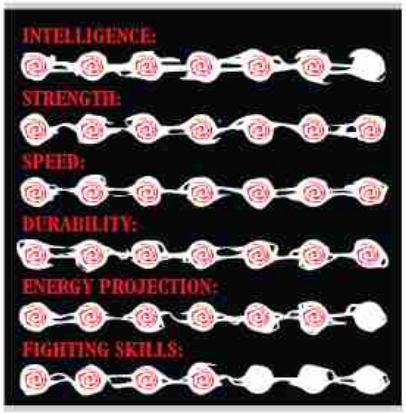
symbiote god from reclaiming it. Knull absorbed both Venom and "Rex" into Grendel's form, but Brock had seeded the symbiote with flash grenades, which exploded, weakening Grendel and freeing Venom. Merged with the beast, "Rex" took control long enough to hurl Grendel and itself into a furnace, which Brock held shut until Grendel was apparently incinerated. However, the Maker (Reed Richards of Earth-1610) recovered a sample that was later stolen by Knull cultists, who attempted to use Carnage (Cletus Kasady) as a host for Knull's consciousness, but the god was unable to take over the insane Kasady's mind. Kasady desired contact with Knull again and took over the cult after apparently killing leader Scorn (Tanis Nieves), then began tracking down other symbiote hosts to harvest their codices, genetic imprints left behind after bonding.

With nearly enough codices gathered to awaken Knull, Kasady battled Brock, who seemingly killed him, absorbing the codices from Carnage, which connected him to Knull. Knull awakened, destroyed Klyntar, and transformed its component symbiotes into symbiote dragons, leading them Earthward. Dylan Brock, Eddie's alleged son, secretly kept a piece of the Carnage symbiote, through which Knull was able to contact Dylan, simultaneously attacking Brock psychically through his nightmares. Dylan, possessing powers presumably from allegedly having two symbiote hosts and a symbiote as parents, expelled the Carnage remnants from both himself and Eddie, severing Knull's control; Eddie subsequently went to the Avengers to warn them of Knull. On his way to Earth, Knull devastated planets in his wake, including the avian-populated Fallo.

KNULL AND UNIDENTIFIED GOD

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Knull is apparently older than the universe and a being of immense power. Practically indestructible, he can survive the vacuum of space and solar heat. He can pull matter from shadow and create symbiotes that he can command and use their senses over limitless space, even projecting a manifestation of himself through them; symbiotes that have learned compassion and independence from their sentient hosts are harder to command. He can communicate with symbiotes and their hosts directly or through their dreams. Symbiotes under Knull's control often manifest spiral-shaped emblems on their faces. For many millennia, Knull carried All-Black, an immensely powerful symbiote that generally held the form of a powerful sword.

FORGING ALL-BLACK



FIRST APPEARANCE: *Thor: God of Thunder #6* (2013); (identified) *Venom #3* (2018)

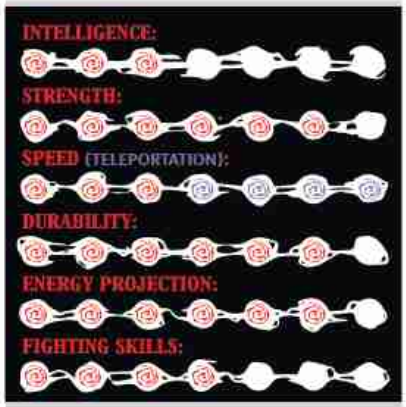
ART BY BUTCH GUICE & RYAN STEGMAN

MARQUIS RADU

REAL NAME: Radu
ALIASES: Avatar of Chaos, Baron Radu
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Conqueror, scientist, mystic
CITIZENSHIP: Presumably Homeworld
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: Commander of an army and an unidentified group of agents
EDUCATION: Trained by one of the Microverse's most vile conquerors
HEIGHT: 6'10" (Microverse equivalent)
WEIGHT: Approximately 210 lbs. (Microverse equivalent)
EYES: Unrevealed
HAIR: Unrevealed

HISTORY: At least a millennium ago, symbiote creatures invaded the Microverse (a reality accessed via energies of shrinking) and were narrowly driven away, but not before their nature poisoned the Microverse's matter. In modern times, Marquis Radu, a student and follower of one of the Microverse's most vile conquerors, rose from mad scientist to despot while defeating all challengers. Seeking to rule as a god, Radu plotted to use symbiotes from the Macroverse (the Prime Reality's universe) to annihilate and remake the Microverse's binding power, the Enigma Force, under his command. Radu asked Earth's Carnage (Cletus Kasady) to travel to the Microverse and slay the Enigma Force's embodiment, former Spartak ruler the Redeemer; however, Radu secretly intended to use his bio-engineering Body Banks to repeatedly clone Carnage's symbiote. Radu sent his agents to break Kasady out of prison and return with him via the Prometheus Pit dimensional portal (created by Professor Phillip Prometheus and rebuilt by Dr. Ketola). Kasady's violent breakout and subsequent actions attracted the Spider-Man (Peter Parker) clone Scarlet Spider (Kaine) and symbiote-bonded hero Agent Venom ("Flash" Thompson) who pursued Carnage into the Microverse after Carnage kidnapped Thompson's reporter friend, Katy Kiernan. Advised by Kiernan he was being used, Carnage slaughtered most of Radu's agents, except one to lead him to Radu, who swiftly subdued Carnage. Meanwhile, the Enigma Force team (Bug, Flare, Mari, Quark, Arcturus Rann) — under the guidance of their former teammate Redeemer — recruited Agent Venom only to be captured by Radu's forces. Kiernan refused Radu's offer to be his chronicler and guide to the Macroverse, which he intended to conquer next. Radu successfully cloned Carnage and Agent Venom's symbiotes, but Carnage usurped control of the clones after they consumed the intended hosts. The Enigma Force team broke free and engaged Radu, who abandoned his plot and teleported away. Agent Venom and Scarlet Spider then followed Carnage to Earth where they defeated him, and Agent Venom destroyed the clones.

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Marquis Radu possesses powerful mystical and technological abilities, enabling him to fight off armies and incapacitate Carnage with a single blow. A cyborg, he has an armored chest/abdominal plate and clawed, bionic gauntlets, which can project energy blasts or be launched and remotely controlled; he can also project blasts from his gauntlet-less wrists. He can withstand symbiotes' touch, otherwise deadly to the Microverse and its inhabitants. He can teleport unspecified distances, and use the Body Banks to break down, transform, or rebuild others. He commands armored troops and operates out of an immense arachnid-like mobile fortress.



FIRST APPEARANCE: (Behind-the-scenes) *Minimum Carnage Alpha #1* (2012); (partially seen) *Scarlet Spider #11* (2012); (identified) *Venom #26* (2012); (fully seen) *Scarlet Spider #12* (2013)

ART BY REILLY BROWN & DECLAN SHALVEY

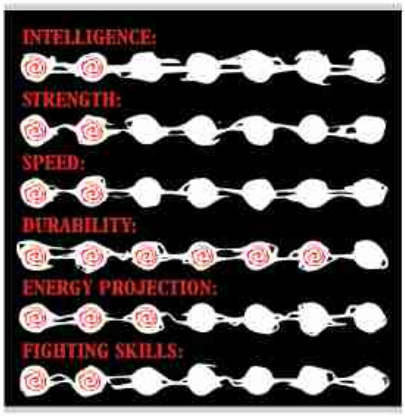
MISTER E

REAL NAME: Unrevealed
ALIASES: "Shadow monster," "Shadow Dude"
IDENTITY: Secret
OCCUPATION: Would-be conqueror; former scout
CITIZENSHIP: Shadowverse
PLACE OF BIRTH: Shadowverse
KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: His own army of Shadow Slaves
EDUCATION: Unrevealed
HEIGHT: Variable (presumably)
WEIGHT: Variable (presumably)
EYES: Light blue
HAIR: Unrevealed

HISTORY: In his mission to return reality to darkness, the ancient god Knull sent a symbiotic slave to Earth. This symbiote adopted the "warrior's art of survival" to bring about an invasion of the "Shadowverse," but actually wanted to control Earth and be worshipped as a god. The symbiote claimed NASA employee Louis Tuttle as a host, and as "Mister E," attacked Cape Canaveral intending to steal their newly developed solar shuttle and use it to cast "negatron particles" into Earth's sun to turn it into a black star and cause galaxy-wide darkness. Mister E converted many of Cape Canaveral's personnel into Shadow Slaves under his control, but when his efforts caused a blackout, he unwittingly drew the attention of teenager Steve Coffin, whose father Ray was hospitalized at the Cape's Kennedy Hospital. To stop Mister E, the cosmic Uni-Power tapped Coffin to become the latest Captain Universe. Coffin traced the Shadow Slaves back to monologuing Mister E, who then dispatched Shadow Slaves to distract Captain Universe while he successfully launched the solar shuttle, which had been transformed to suit Mister E's needs by aeronautic engineers turned Shadow Slaves. Captain Universe pursued, breached its hull, and turned the shuttle so the Sun's heat and light poured through the breach, apparently killing Tuttle; however, the symbiote somehow survived and returned to Earth. Months later, the symbiote went to the Ravencroft Institute for the Criminally Insane, approaching inmate Alistaire Smythe — former college classmate of Tuttle and criminal foe of Spider-Man (Peter Parker, who had somehow returned to wearing a symbiote as a costume at the time) — and convinced him to become its host. Soon, in his capacity as a photographer, Peter Parker accompanied *Daily Bugle* reporter Ned Leeds in reporting Smythe's claim to have created paralysis-curing cybernetic implants. As Mister E, Smythe claimed the Institute's population as Shadow Slaves and came to blows with Spider-Man while trying to convince Spider-Man's symbiote to join Knull's cause. During the confrontation, Mister E was impaled by the Ebony Blade-wielding Avenger Black Knight (Dane Whitman), who was coincidentally passing by; the defeated Mister E subsequently fled.

NOTES: *Mister E's use of "Shadowverse/Shadow Realm" presumably references Knull's all-encompassing darkness, rather than a dimension unto itself. The events of Symbiote Spider-Man: King in Black #1 (2020) depict Spider-Man wearing his symbiote costume at a time after he had rejected it; how this came about remains unrevealed. In Reality-80119 Mister E successfully darkened the Sun and spread his influence to other galaxies.*

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Mister E's molecular makeup resembles that of a living shadow, allowing him to manipulate and elongate his form and mass at will, even using its living darkness to create animated "shadow demons," construct rudimentary objects such as superhumanly dense barriers, and impersonate humans. Like most symbiotes, fire and noise can presumably harm Mister E, and it appears it is vulnerable to mystical items (like the Ebony Blade). Mister E can transform other beings into controllable Shadow Slaves via touch; these Shadow Slaves can infect others via injection of their shadow substance. Mister E can pilot otherworldly spacecraft.



FIRST APPEARANCE: *Marvel Spotlight #9* (1980)

ART BY STEVE DITKO & GREG LAND

VICTORIA MONTESI

REAL NAME: Victoria "Vicki" Montesi
ALIASES: "Statue lady"
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Occult investigator; former medical resident
CITIZENSHIP: Italy, Vatican City, USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Rome, Italy
KNOWN RELATIVES: Vittorio Montesi (adoptive father), Chthon (father), unidentified mother, unidentified grandmother, Guiseppe Montesi (adoptive uncle, deceased), Paolo Montesi, Giacomo Montesi, Marcello Montesi (adoptive ancestors, deceased), extended relations through Chthon
GROUP AFFILIATION: Children of the Midnight Sun/Children of Midnight, "the Nine"; formerly Midnight Sons, Darkhold Redeemers
EDUCATION: MD
HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 165 lbs.
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Black

HISTORY: Billions of years ago, the Elder Gods ruled the newborn Earth until most degenerated into demonic beings. One of the most powerful and malignant, Chthon, inscribed his dark magic into indestructible parchment, dubbed the Chthon scrolls. Eventually Chthon's non-demonic sibling, Gaea, spawned the god-eating Demogorge (Atum) to slay her corrupted peers. To survive this purge, Chthon fled to another dimension; though trapped there, he left behind his scrolls to continue to influence Earth and ultimately return there. In the sixth-century C.E., most of the scrolls were gathered and bound into the *Darkhold*, aka the Book of Sins. The 12th-century monk Paolo Montesi's strong faith allowed him to read the *Darkhold* without succumbing to its corruption, and he uncovered the disturbing Malachy Prophecy warning of Chthon's eventual return: "A woman born of no man and of a woman marked by sin; daughter becomes mother; then will the dark return begin." In response, Pope Eugene III declared Paolo's bloodline the book's custodians, giving the Montesi priests special dispensation to marry and sire heirs.

CASTING SPELL FROM *DARKHOLD*

In the 20th century Vittorio Montesi learned he was sterile. Desperate to produce an heir to guard the *Darkhold*, he used a fertility spell from the book to sire a child, Victoria ("Vicki"), with his American wife, unaware he was fulfilling the prophecy and that the child's true father was Chthon. Subconsciously sensing this, Vittorio resented Vicki. The problem worsened both when she rejected his teachings and her familial duties as superstitious nonsense and when she came out as gay. Choosing to become a doctor, Vicki was in her first year of medical residency at St. Anthony's Hospital in Rome and living with her girlfriend, karate instructor Nash Salvato, when her skepticism was shattered. Another demon, Lilith (Kiskillilla), believing Vicki one of "the Nine" prophesied to oppose her, convinced Interpol Chief Randolph DeGuzman, a secret Darkholder cultist, that Vicki threatened Chthon's return, prompting him to send assassins after her. A bomb intended for Vicki left Salvato severely injured, and at the Vatican's request, Interpol Special Agent Samson Buchanan was assigned to be her bodyguard. Reporting to DeGuzman, Buchanan kept him apprised of Vicki's movements, unwittingly enabling further murder attempts. Almost simultaneously, Chthon's servant, the Dwarf, began distributing loose *Darkhold* pages to unwary recipients, channeling the mystic power for this through an unsuspecting Vicki. Finding herself suddenly beset by visions of the evils unleashed and awareness of the activated pages' locations, Vicki teamed up with the still-skeptical Buchanan and her father's friend, occult expert Professor Louise Hastings, to retrieve the cursed parchments.

Soon after this, sorcerer Doctor Stephen Strange teleported the Nine — Vicki, Buchanan, Hastings, Ghost Rider (Dan Ketch), former Ghost Rider Johnny Blaze, the vampiric Michael Morbius, and occult investigators the

FIRST COMBAT SUIT

EMPOWERED BY *DARKHOLD* PAGE

Nightstalkers (Blade/Eric Brooks, Frank Drake and Hannibal King) — to Greenland, where Lilith had opened an interdimensional rift to unleash her demonic children ("Lilin") on Earth. Unaware who had brought them together, the group nevertheless succeeded in stopping Lilith, and thereafter formed the loosely aligned Midnight Sons with other supernatural allies. Vicki, Buchanan, and Hastings, now informally dubbed the "Darkhold Redeemers," continued to gather pages, soon assisted by erstwhile unwilling Chthon servant, Modred the Mystic. During one retrieval attempt, battling Chthon's demonic N'Garai servants in Perfection, South Carolina, Vicki realized that the N'Garai ignored her; not knowing of Vicki's direct relations to Chthon, Hastings wrongly reasoned that her Montesi heritage somehow rendered Vicki invisible to them.

Meanwhile, Salvato's parents had transferred their ailing daughter to Summertide Convalescent Home in New Hope, Connecticut. At Vicki's behest the Redeemers set up a home across the street, allowing Vicki to visit whenever not chasing *Darkhold* pages. Salvato showed signs of recovery under Vicki's care, but rapidly deteriorated during her absences. During one incident, a demon killed Hastings' daughter Caprice, and the group took in Hastings' now-orphaned grandson Will Hastings, aka Jinx. Soon thereafter, DeGuzman convinced Buchanan that Vicki was faking her visions and was secretly in league with the Darkholders, explaining why the cultists kept finding them. On DeGuzman's orders, Buchanan delivered Vicki and Hastings to his superior, but they escaped with Jinx's help, and were reunited with a penitent Buchanan, who finally accepted that he was in love with Vicki and saw through DeGuzman's deception.

When another *Darkhold* page transformed Blade into Switchblade, and made him obsessed with wiping out all things supernatural, he turned on his fellow Midnight Sons. Knowing he would not hurt normal people, Vicki tried to act as a human shield for Modred, but was slain without hesitation. Hastings restored Blade and resurrected his victims using a counter-spell from

MONSTROSITY

PREGNANT WITH CHTHON

HUNTING CARNAGE

SECOND COMBAT SUIT

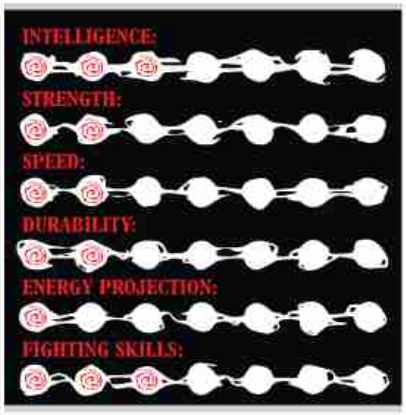
the *Darkhold*, but Vicki wondered why he had been willing to kill her. Investigating the gateway through which Chthon's power was flowing to Earth, Hastings discovered the truth of Vicki's conception, but hesitated to tell her friend; in Hastings' absence, Salvato's doctors informed Vicki that her lover was dying. The Dwarf offered her a *Darkhold* page granting healing powers, and Vicki succumbed to temptation, simultaneously unleashing her dark side as the life-force-stealing Monstrosity. To save Vicki's soul, Salvato convinced Vicki to reject the power and destroy Monstrosity before dying moments later.

When Vicki began suffering sickness in the mornings, she assumed she was merely unwell; however she was unknowingly pregnant with Chthon, possibly due to her use of the *Darkhold*. When the Redeemers were alerted that Lilith had opened an interdimensional rift in Salem Fields Cemetery, in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, they joined the Midnight Sons in trying to shut it. During the conflict, Morbius came under the Lilin Bloodthirst's control and murdered Hastings. Vicki later discovered a letter Hastings had written outlining her findings about Vicki, confirming Vicki's own growing suspicions. With more imminent world-ending threats to deal with, Doctor Strange placed Vicki in stasis to slow her pregnancy and buy time, but Chthon's minion the Midwife awakened Vicki as she neared full-term. Strange realized Chthon was in a uniquely vulnerable state while merged with a human and used the purity of Vicki's soul to drive him back to his prison dimension, ending Vicki's unnatural pregnancy.

Freed, Vicki allied herself with the Children of the Midnight Sun (possibly the Redeemers renamed) to continue blocking Chthon's return. When symbiote-empowered serial killer Carnage (Cletus Kasady) stole the *Darkhold*, Vicki and her ally Yuvraj Singh joined FBI Agent Claire Dixon's anti-Carnage task force, pursuing him to an uncharted island in the Timor Sea inhabited by Broodlings of Chthon, frog-like humanoids who helped Carnage manifest Chthon on Earth. At Vicki's suggestion, her ally Jubulile Van Scotter combined the might of two other symbiotes, Toxin and Raze, to battle Chthon, while Vicki boosted Van Scotter's power to absorb psychic energy with a *Darkhold* spell, successfully banishing Chthon once more. Afterward Vicki enjoyed a brief romance with task force member Manuela Calderon, before their respective responsibilities forced them to part.

NOTE: *Yuvraj Singh, apparently in his fifties, claimed Vicki saved him from the Chthonic Brotherhood when he was a child; Vicki was non-committal when asked about this. How Singh's claim fits with Vicki being seemingly unaware of her supernatural nature and dismissive of the* Darkhold *until comparatively recently remains unrevealed.*

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: While acting as Chthon's unwitting gateway, Vicki could sense the location of *Darkhold* pages in use, sometimes having visions of what they unleashed; this ability apparently remains, although less focused, now that the power no longer directs through her. She has accumulated some proficiency in casting spells from the *Darkhold*, and can inscribe Chthonic symbols on weapons and armor to render them more effective against Chthon's minions. Vicki is proficient with firearms and swords, and has some hand-to-hand training via Salvato and Buchanan. She is at least bilingual, fluent in English and Italian, and is a trained medical doctor.



FIRST APPEARANCE: (Vision) *Ghost Rider #28* (1992); (actual) *Darkhold #1* (1992)

ART BY MARK BUCKINGHAM, NORMAN FELCHLE, ANDY KUBERT, MIKE PERKINS & RURIK TYLER

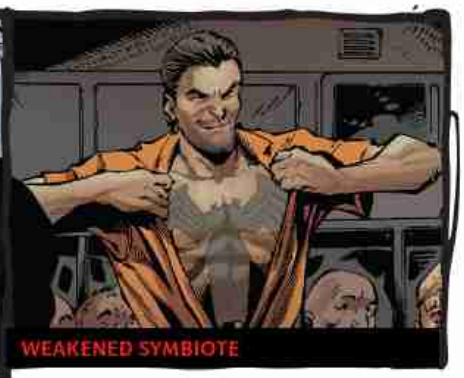
LEE PRICE

REAL NAME: Lee Price
ALIASES: Formerly Maniac, Venom
IDENTITY: Public
OCCUPATION: Criminal; former U.S. Army Ranger
CITIZENSHIP: USA, with a criminal record
PLACE OF BIRTH: Queens, New York City, New York
KNOWN RELATIVES: Unidentified father (deceased), unidentified mother (deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly Black Cat's gang, U.S. Army Rangers
EDUCATION: Military training, presumably U.S. Army Ranger school
HEIGHT: (Price) 6'
(Venom, Maniac) variable
WEIGHT: (Price) 200 lbs.
(Venom, Maniac) variable
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Black

HISTORY: After killing his abusive parents via arson, Lee Price spent five years as a ward of the state before enlisting with the U.S. Army and becoming a Ranger. A mine explosion cost him two fingers on his left hand and he was discharged, but was unable to find work and turned to crime. Price's life experience turned him into a pragmatic, scheming, and callous person. Taking a grunt job with the gang led by Black Cat (Felicia Hardy), Price bonded with the Venom symbiote — which was searching for a new host — during a confrontation with another gang, led by Tombstone (Lonnie Lincoln). Price killed everyone present — including childhood friend Tony Consiglio and a homeless man — to keep his new secret, hoping to gain prominence in Black Cat's gang with his hidden weapon; Price presumably used the symbiote to "re-create" his missing fingers. Despite Price's efforts, within days both Black Cat and the FBI learned his secret and the FBI's Anti-Symbiote Task Force, assisted by Spider-Man (Peter Parker), took the symbiote. Once released from the New York Corrections Supermax Facility for Superhuman Incarceration, Price attacked Mania (Andi Benton) and took her symbiote, naming himself Maniac. Maniac infected various villains with pieces of his new symbiote, taking control of their minds and calling them his "Inklings." With his new army, he enslaved Black Cat and her gang. Meanwhile, using a symbiote tracker to search for Mania's missing symbiote, Spider-Man and Anti-Venom ("Flash" Thompson) tracked Maniac. Though Anti-Venom freed Black Cat, Maniac enslaved Spider-Man and sent him out for supplies for his plan to enslave the five largest crime families in the world. Black Cat freed Spider-Man, and they teamed up with Benton, Anti-Venom, and Venom (Eddie Brock). Disguised as waiters, Maniac and his Inklings enslaved the crime families but were confronted by Spider-Man

AS VENOM

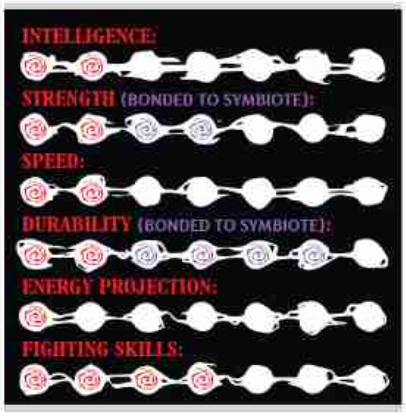
AS MANIAC WITH INKLINGS



WEAKENED SYMBIOTE

and his allies, who were armed with an anti-symbiote serum. When his Inklings were freed Maniac called the slivers of his symbiote back to empower himself, growing to an enormous height, but was ultimately defeated by Anti-Venom, himself empowered by former Inkling antibodies. Imprisoned at Ryker's Island Penitentiary, Price wore his weakened symbiote as a Venom emblem on his chest, but serial killer symbiote host Carnage (Cletus Kasady) ripped Price's symbiote from him, apparently killing Price in the process.

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: While bonded to the Venom symbiote, Price had superhuman strength (presumably lifting 11 tons) and durability, could cling to walls, shoot strands of the alien's substance as adhesive "webbing" from his wrists, camouflage himself, and negate Spider-Man's spider-sense. As Maniac, in addition to the "Venom" powers, Price could separate the symbiote and attach it to others to control their minds. Price had extensive Army Rangers training and combat experience, and could pilot a helicopter. Price previously wore a left glove with inserts to stand in for his missing fingers.



FIRST APPEARANCE: (Venom/Price) *Venom #1* (2017); (Maniac) *Amazing Spider-Man: Venom Inc. #1* (2018)

ART BY GERARDO SANDOVAL & RYAN STEGMAN

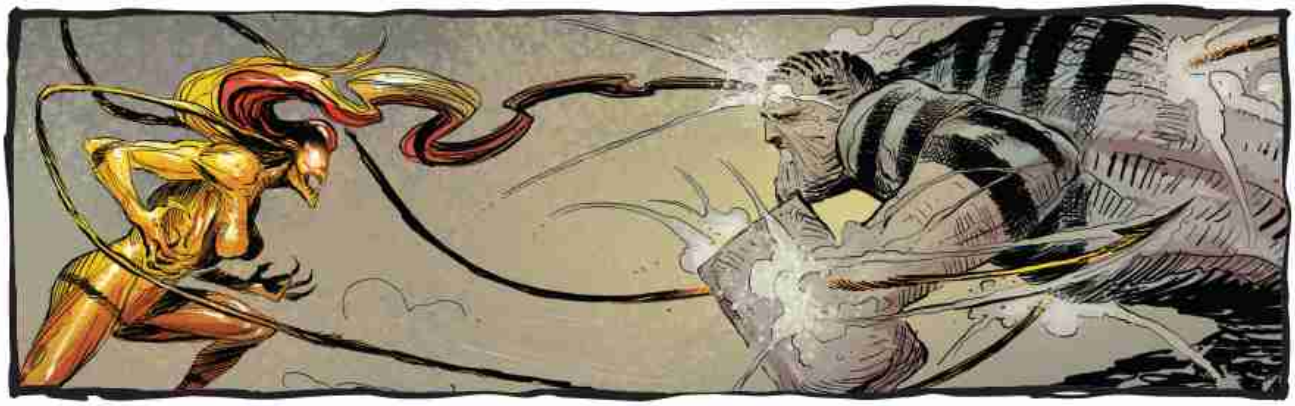
SCREAM

REAL NAME: Andrea "Andi" Benton
ALIASES: Formerly Mania
IDENTITY: Secret
OCCUPATION: Adventurer; former record store employee
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
KNOWN RELATIVES: (Benton) Unidentified father (deceased), unidentified mother, Sarah (last name unrevealed, aunt, deceased); (Mania symbiote) Venom (genetic counterpart), various relations through Venom; (Scream symbiote) Venom ("progenitor"), Carnage, Sleeper ("siblings"), Agony, Lasher, Phage, Riot (collectively known as Hybrid, "siblings," apparently deceased), various relations through Carnage
GROUP AFFILIATION: Monsters of Evil (leader)
EDUCATION: High school (whether she graduated is unrevealed)
HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 140 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Black with dyed purple highlights

HISTORY: Abandoned by her mother at an early age, lackadaisical Andrea "Andi" Benton lived with her doting father in a modest apartment and attended high school. Initially dismissive and judgmental toward her new paraplegic downstairs neighbor and assistant gym coach, Eugene "Flash" Thompson, Benton showed surprising concern when she found him injured and without his wheelchair on the roof of their building after battling the vigilante Toxin (Eddie Brock) as his crime fighting, symbiotic alter ego Agent Venom. Soon after, Benton witnessed Thompson instinctively use his symbiote to punish a school bully, and his secret weighed heavily on her. When local crimelord Lord Ogre sent an unidentified man brainwashed to become a new Jack O'Lantern to attack their apartment building to get to Thompson, Benton helplessly watched him murder her father. Attempting to protect her, Thompson covered Benton with his symbiote. Thompson was unaware the symbiote secretly expelled a previously-absorbed clone of itself onto Benton; both Thompson and the symbiote were also unaware a Hell-Mark intended to be branded upon the Venom symbiote by the Hell-lord Mephisto some time before had been accidentally attached to the clone now on Benton. The bond between them was fast and aggressive, and Benton adapted to the symbiote with unnerving aptitude. After her father's funeral, Benton lived with her Aunt Sarah in Jenkintown, still under Thompson's watchful eye.

Yearning for vengeance, partially due to the Hell-Mark's corrupting influence, Benton adopted the name Mania and hunted Lord Ogre, despite Thompson's wishes. Mania confronted Lord Ogre at his penthouse and was attacked by Crossbones (Brock Rumlow) and Master Mayhem, who were working for Hydra's Department of Occult Armaments (D.O.A.) to claim Benton's Hell-Mark. Mayhem's demons killed Lord Ogre, but the Hell-Mark allowed Mania to command them, enabling her and Thompson to escape. Mania followed Thompson to a ruined casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey, to bargain with the Hell-lord Mephisto. Benton learned the Hell-Mark made her a potential successor for Mephisto during a pending event called the Descent, and gave her control over the D.O.A.'s demonic Monsters of Evil; Mephisto refused to transfer the mark to Thompson, stating the original deal was with the symbiote.

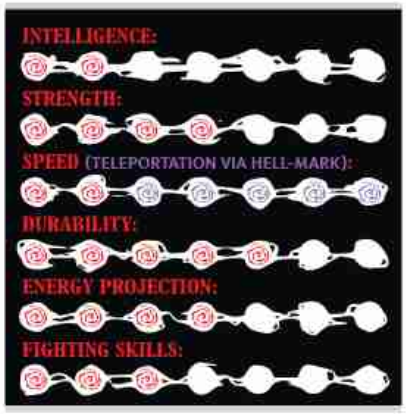
The Hell-Mark burned through the symbiote, attaching itself to Benton, further accentuating her ruthlessness after Thompson's temporary departure from Earth with the Guardians of the Galaxy. Later, to quell the Hell-Mark's effects, Thompson injected Benton with a restorative elixir from the planet Wenb's Fountain of Purity. The power-hungry, former Venom symbiote host Lee Price later stole Benton's symbiote and, taking the



name Maniac, used it to enslave others as his "Inklings." Benton tracked Maniac to Karnelli's Scrapyard in the Bronx, New York, saving Thompson, now Anti-Venom, from incineration. Together with Anti-Venom, Spider-Man (Peter Parker), Black Cat (Felicia Hardy), and Venom (Eddie Brock), Benton freed Maniac's victims, but her symbiote remained with Price after his defeat. After the loss of her symbiote, Benton suffered from nightmares, hallucinations, anxiety, and phantom limb syndrome, but made friends to compensate. Sometime later, the symbiote-wearing serial killer Carnage (Cletus Kasady), began collecting codices, genetic imprints stored by symbiotes within current and former hosts' spines, to release the malevolent symbiote god, Knull, from his prison; during his efforts, he stalked Benton and killed Sarah. Terrified, Benton fled, summoning the Monsters of Evil and manifesting armor to face him. Carnage shredded the demons and broke her arm, but the Hell-Mark teleported Benton to New York, where she sought out Brock.

Knull awakened the Scream symbiote, still bonded to its original deceased host, Donna Diego, which arose from its shallow grave to serve him, soon abandoning the corpse for Patricia Robertson, former host to Venom's cloned symbiote. Scream pursued Benton, but occasionally Robertson was able to resist Knull's influence. Carnage brutally murdered the defiant Robertson and nearly killed Benton, but the Scream symbiote bonded with her and healed her. Benton, now Scream, escaped, returning later with reinforcements for a triumphant final battle. Afterward, a now-homeless Benton found respite at the F.E.A.S.T. (Food, Emergency Aid, Shelter, and Training) charity center, where she met May Parker (who was unknowingly the aunt of Spider-Man/Peter Parker). Though Benton had difficulty adjusting to the Scream symbiote, becoming aggressive and suicidal, the symbiote saved her repeatedly. Later, the ancient dragon-like Knull servitor Big Mother sent her minions to acquire the Scream symbiote, hoping to raise it as her daughter. During an attack at F.E.A.S.T., May saw Benton lose control of her symbiote. When Scream confronted Big Mother in her underwater dwelling, Big Mother tore the symbiote from Benton, who nearly drowned. The symbiote, though initially having relished Benton's anger, recognized Benton's growing love to be a more powerful emotion, and rescued her. Admitting all they had was each other, Benton accepted the symbiote as family, and although severely wounded, defeated Big Mother. Benton subsequently promised to earn May's trust by protecting F.E.A.S.T. and those that depended on it. Pushing everyone away for their safety and attempting to remain discreet, Scream investigated the disappearances of numerous homeless children, clashing with vigilantes Punisher (Frank Castle) and Sandman (William Baker), each also working to save the children; unlike Punisher, Scream refused to kill. An appreciative Detective Henley later offered Benton a role as a police informant, which she promptly rejected; Benton remained unaware the Punisher was secretly watching her.

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: The Scream symbiote grants Benton superhuman strength (lifting 5 tons), durability, agility, endurance, and can heal her from minor to near-fatal injuries. It can shape-shift, taking on the appearance of any item of clothing, disguising her features, or rendering her invisible. Scream can use tendril-like hair to entangle or strangle her foes, has razor-sharp claws and teeth, can form fins and adapt to breathe underwater, and form wings for flight. The Scream symbiote is vulnerable to sonics, and can be swayed by the symbiote god Knull's influence. Benton's Hell-Mark enables her to control demons, and summon/command the Monsters of Evil, manifest armor, teleport, project or channel Hellfire through weapons or her mouth, and protects her from intense heat and flame. The Mania symbiote's powers, abilities, and weaknesses were nearly identical to the Scream symbiote.



FIRST APPEARANCE: *Venom #31*; (first name revealed) *Venom #32*; (as Mania) *Venom #38*; (surname revealed) *Venom #39* (all 2013); (as Scream) *Absolute Carnage: Scream #3* (2019)

ART BY ALBERTO ALBURQUERQUE, GARRY BROWN, KIM JACINTO & CHRIS MOONEYHAM

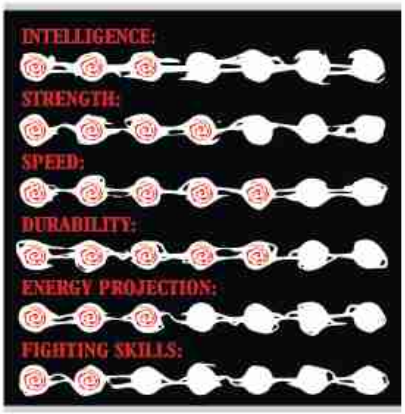
SLEEPER

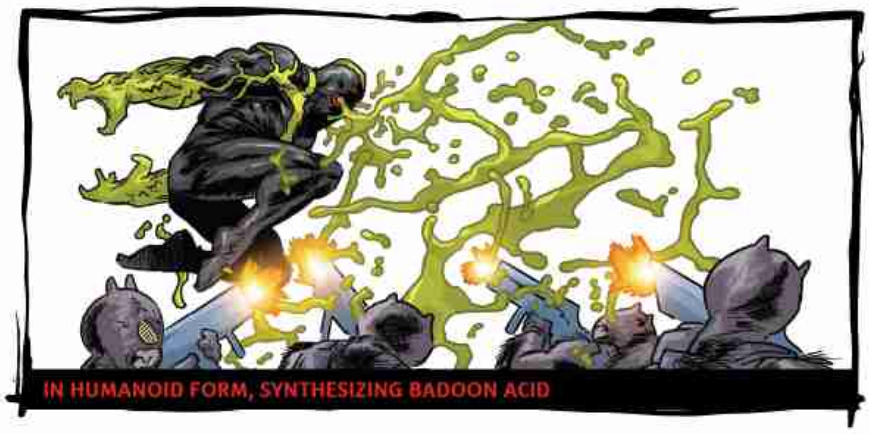
REAL NAME: Sleeper
ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Explorer, guardian
CITIZENSHIP: Unrevealed
PLACE OF BIRTH:
New York City, New York
KNOWN RELATIVES: Venom ("progenitor"), Carnage, Scream ("siblings"), Agony, Lasher, Phage, Riot (collectively known as Hybrid, "siblings," apparently deceased), various relations through Carnage
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: No formal education, knowledge absorbed from various hosts
HEIGHT: 8' (variable)
WEIGHT: Variable
EYES: Solid red (no visible pupils, usually four eyes)
HAIR: None

HISTORY: When the Venom symbiote birthed another spawn, Venom host Eddie Brock protected both symbiotes from the Anti-Symbiote Task Force and Scorpion (Mac Gargan), who hoped to claim the offspring as his own. After Alchemax Laboratory's Dr. Steve tricked them into believing it had been a stillbirth, Brock arranged to keep the offspring in the Alchemax lab. Shortly after Brock learned Alchemax was performing invasive tests on the offspring, alien Kree warrior Tel-Kar, apparently the Venom symbiote's first host, stole the Venom symbiote from Brock. The offspring bonded with Brock to rescue its parent and joined forces with the Skrull War-Bride M'lanz (who was hunting Tel-Kar). They tracked Tel-Kar to the D'karr Nebula where the Venom symbiote ultimately escaped Tel-Kar's control and rejoined Brock. After returning to Earth, Brock found Tel-Kar in his apartment threatening to destroy humanity with a biological weapon. The offspring lobotomized Tel-Kar, took his body as its passive host, and left to explore the cosmos. When Tel-Kar was mortally wounded on an alien planet, the offspring fed on the dying Kree's fluids and experienced his memories. After Tel-Kar's death, the offspring was disturbed by the lonely silence and drifted through space until the symbiote hive mind drew it to Klyntar, the planet of the symbiotes, where it learned of the symbiote god Knull's existence and the threat he posed to Earth. After taking the name Sleeper, the offspring returned to Earth to oppose Knull's minions there. Sleeper shed Tel-Kar's corpse to bond with Dylan, the alleged son of Eddie Brock, but could not, apparently due to the boy's unique biology. Using newfound powers over symbiotes, Dylan forcibly "piloted" Sleeper, in the form of a wolf, turning its saliva to napalm to defeat the symbiote-controlled Maker (Earth-1610's Reed Richards); these events allowed Sleeper to learn an unrevealed true nature of Dylan. Sleeper vowed to protect Dylan, accompanying him in the form of a housecat. Sleeper was later alarmed to learn Dylan was secretly keeping a piece of a symbiote; Sleeper urged Dylan to reveal this, his powers, and his true nature to Brock.

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Sleeper is capable of chemokinesis, the ability to create any chemical from itself in either liquid or aerosol forms, including napalm and chemicals that allow contact-free communication, euphoria, confusion, or sleep. Once it has "learned" a being's biology, it can synthesize a variety of pheromones, tranquilizers, and stimulants specific to it, such as Badoon acid and Brood pheromones. It can "feel" things that are cloaked, survive in the vacuum of space, fly interstellar distances rapidly using rocket boosters it "grows" from its back, and become effectively invisible by camouflaging itself while secreting a pheromone that confuses the senses. Presumably, Sleeper's enhanced strength, durability, and endurance will increase as it ages.

IN CAT FORM



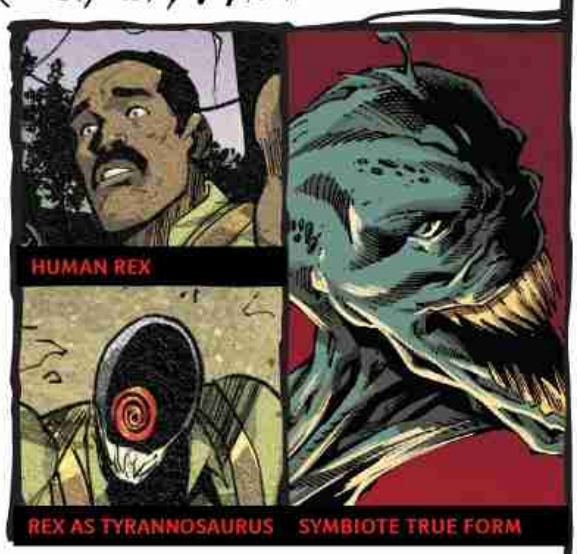


IN HUMANOID FORM, SYNTHESIZING BADOON ACID

FIRST APPEARANCE: (Referenced) *Venom #164* (2018); (spawned) *Venom #165* (2018); (name revealed) *Venom: First Host #4* (2018); (name used) *Venom #17* (2019)

ART BY IBAN COELLO & JUAN GEDEON

REX STRICKLAND



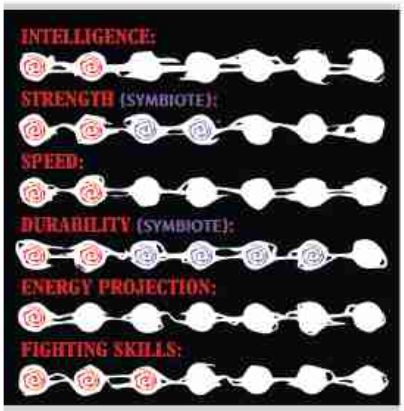
SYMBIOTE POSING AS REX

REAL NAME: (Human) Rex Strickland; (symbiote) unrevealed
ALIASES: (Both) Tyrannosaurus; (symbiote) impersonated Rex Strickland
IDENTITY: (Both) Secret
OCCUPATION: (Human) assassin; former soldier; (symbiote) former S.H.I.E.L.D. agent
CITIZENSHIP: (Human) USA; (symbiote) unrevealed
PLACE OF BIRTH: (Both) unrevealed
KNOWN RELATIVES: (Human) none; (symbiote) Grendel (progenitor), Big Mother (supposed "grandmother")
GROUP AFFILIATION: (Human) Sym-Soldier Program; formerly U.S. Army; (symbiote) formerly S.H.I.E.L.D., Sym-Soldier Program
EDUCATION: (Both) unrevealed
HEIGHT: (Human) 5'8"; (symbiote) variable
WEIGHT: (Human) 150 lbs.; (symbiote) variable
EYES: (Human) brown; (symbiote) variable
HAIR: (Human) black; (symbiote) variable

HISTORY: When a sniper shot Rex Strickland during the Vietnam War, Project S.H.I.E.L.D. (which preceded the peacekeeping S.H.I.E.L.D. by decades) chose the dying soldier to lead the Sym-Soldier Program, a government project to create super-soldiers by bonding humans to alien symbiotes taken from the dragon-like Grendel. The symbiote-empowered Strickland, codenamed Tyrannosaurus, became a government assassin. While deployed with the other Sym-Soldiers to destroy a Vietnamese weapons depot, the symbiotes became dominant and violently erratic due to their connection to Grendel, who was undergoing painful Project S.H.I.E.L.D. tests. The Sym-Soldiers began slaughtering everyone present, prompting Project S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Nick Fury to send the mutant Logan (James Howlett) and a Life-Model Decoy (LMD) of himself to regain control of the soldiers. His symbiote leaving him, Strickland aided Logan and the LMD against his teammates until the LMD activated self-destruct protocols, forcing Strickland to re-bond to his remorseful symbiote. Strickland hurled Logan to safety before perishing in the explosion. The mourning symbiote assumed Strickland's identity and joined S.H.I.E.L.D., secretly appropriating confiscated weapons over several decades. Following S.H.I.E.L.D.'s collapse, the symbiote (as Strickland) obtained the assistance of Venom (Eddie Brock) in liberating the cryogenically frozen Sym-Soldiers, inadvertently also freeing Grendel. Venom ultimately exposed the symbiote's true identity shortly before they merged to combat Grendel; "Strickland" subsequently sacrificed itself in an attempt to immolate Grendel.

SYMBIOTE MERGED WITH VENOM

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: The human Rex Strickland was a highly trained soldier and assassin, adept with military weapons. While bonded to his symbiote, Strickland had superhuman strength (lifting roughly 800 lbs.) and durability. Strickland's symbiote could alter its amorphous body at will to camouflage or appear as others. Like most symbiotes, it had a weakness to fire and high frequency sonics. As Rex Strickland, the symbiote had access to confiscated S.H.I.E.L.D. weapons including advanced firearms and sonic grenades.



FIRST APPEARANCE: (Symbiote as Strickland, photo of real Strickland) *Venom #1* (2018); (real Strickland and symbiote's true form both fully seen) *Venom #2* (2018)

ART BY JUANAN RAMIREZ & RYAN STEGMAN

TEL-KAR

REAL NAME: Tel-Kar
ALIASES: "Papa Smurf," impersonated M'lanz; possessed by Sleeper
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Former fugitive, Skrull soldier (infiltrator), Kree undercover operative, Kree soldier
CITIZENSHIP: Kree Empire, with a criminal record
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly Kree military (Lesser Magellanic Special Tactics Division, Fleet of the Third Spiral Arm), Skrull military (infiltrator)
EDUCATION: Kree military training with specialist training to control symbiotes
HEIGHT: 6'4"
WEIGHT: 250 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: White

AFTER SCARRING

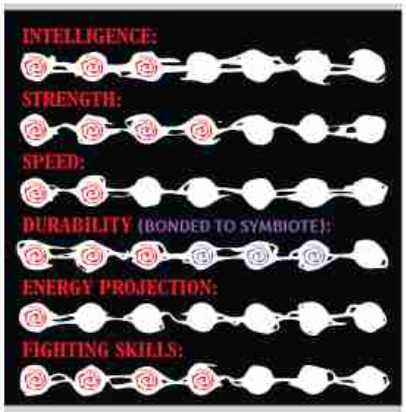
CREATING SKRULL DISGUISE

BONDED WITH VENOM SYMBIOTE

HISTORY: During the Kree-Skrull War, Tel-Kar, a Kree soldier in the Lesser Magellanic Special Tactics Division, was selected to bond with a shape-shifting alien symbiote. He underwent experimental gene therapies to make him an ideal host, with implants altering his body chemistry to increase the symbiote's reliance on him, physical training to resist a symbiote's psychoactive effects, and psychological training to manipulate its memories. Mimicking a Skrull, he infiltrated enemy forces, sabotaged missions, stole classified information, and performed assassinations. In case he was captured, a cover story was concocted, with fellow Kree told he had deserted. Eventually he learned of a secret Skrull weapon; a programmable plague able to target specific species. Though the Skrulls had declined to unleash it, even against their mortal enemies, Tel-Kar believed it could win the war if turned against the Skrulls and sought to inform his Kree superiors. Before he could, he blew his cover to prevent the massacre of Kree refugees. In case of capture, Tel-Kar locked away most of the secrets he had learned within the symbiote's subconscious. He entrusted the refugees to return the symbiote to Hala while he bought them time. After they departed, Skrull Warbrides led by M'lanz captured Tel-Kar. He spent years in Skrull custody, undergoing enhanced interrogation. Escaping to Hala, he found a new regime in charge who deemed him a traitor and handed him back to the Skrulls as a war criminal. Eventually escaping again, Tel-Kar wandered the galaxy until hearing of the exploits of Venom, a symbiote bonded to an Earth human named Eddie Brock. Tel-Kar went to Earth,

pursued by M'lanz. Finding the symbiote unwilling to leave Brock, Tel-Kar forced its capitulation by threatening its newborn spawn, later named Sleeper, and with his memories restored, departed for a Skrull Military Installation in the D'karr Nebula to steal the plague. With M'lanz and Brock, now bonded to Sleeper, close behind, Tel-Kar slaughtered the facility's staff and alerted the Kree to its location, believing delivering the bioweapon would restore his status. With Sleeper's aid, the Venom symbiote rebelled against Tel-Kar's control, prompting him to burn it off himself, leaving him scarred. The Kree warships opened fire on the facility, still viewing Tel-Kar as a traitor and preferring to destroy the weapon. Brock, the symbiotes, and M'lanz escaped, wrongly believing Tel-Kar slain in the facility's destruction, but he returned to Earth to punish Brock for his interference by using his remaining plague sample against humanity. Sleeper stopped Tel-Kar by bonding with and lobotomizing him. Piloting the Kree's living but mindless form, Sleeper departed to explore space. When Tel-Kar was slain on an unidentified alien world, Sleeper consumed his fluids, gaining his memories. Later, upon learning that the symbiote god Knull threatened Earth, Sleeper returned to warn his friends, but was captured by the Maker (Earth-1610's Reed Richards) and ripped from Tel-Kar's corpse, which was presumably destroyed thereafter.

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Naturally stronger than humans, the Kree Tel-Kar was also a skilled combatant, proficient with firearms and bladed weapons. He had undergone various genetic and technological modifications to increase his control over symbiotes. Using his symbiote, he could create weapons, his strength, agility, durability, and endurance were boosted to unspecified levels, and he could integrate with technology, operating it as extensions of his own body. He could use its shape-shifting abilities to assume the appearance of different clothing, armor, and individuals of at least vaguely similar height and build, including those of other species.

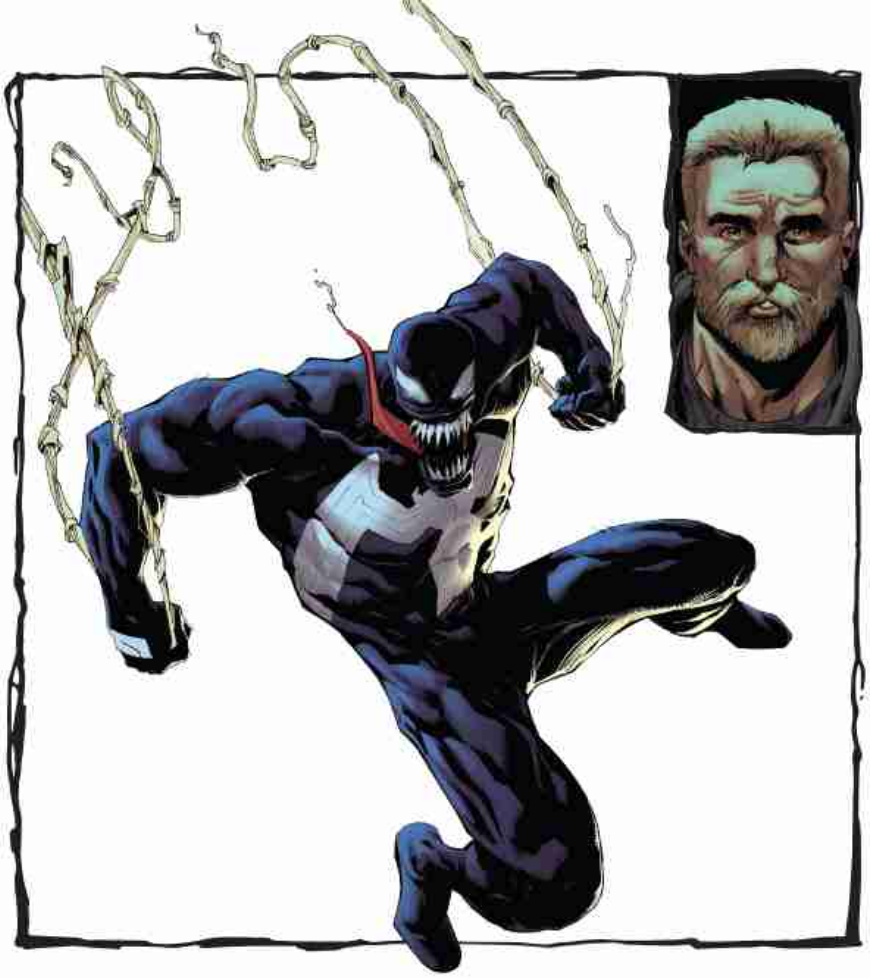


FIRST APPEARANCE: *Venom: First Host #1* (2018)

ART BY MARK BAGLEY, IBAN COELLO, JUAN GEDEON & RON LIM

VENOM

REAL NAME: Edward "Eddie" Charles Allan Brock
ALIASES: "The Lethal Protector," Mr. Sym, Toxin, Anti-Venom, Edwin Brock, Sister Edwina, Rad Eddie
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Vigilante; former reporter, government operative, homeless shelter attendant
CITIZENSHIP: USA, with a criminal record (pardoned)
PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City, New York
KNOWN RELATIVES: (Brock) Dylan Brock (alleged son), Carl Brock (father), Jamie Brock (mother, deceased), Martha (aunt, presumably deceased), Anne Weying (ex-wife, deceased); (symbiote) Carnage ("offspring," deceased), Agony, Lasher, Phage, Riot (collectively known as Hybrid, "offspring," apparently deceased), Scream, Sleeper ("offspring"), Dylan Brock (alleged son)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly FBI, Savage Six, Sinister Six
EDUCATION: B.A. in journalism from Empire State University



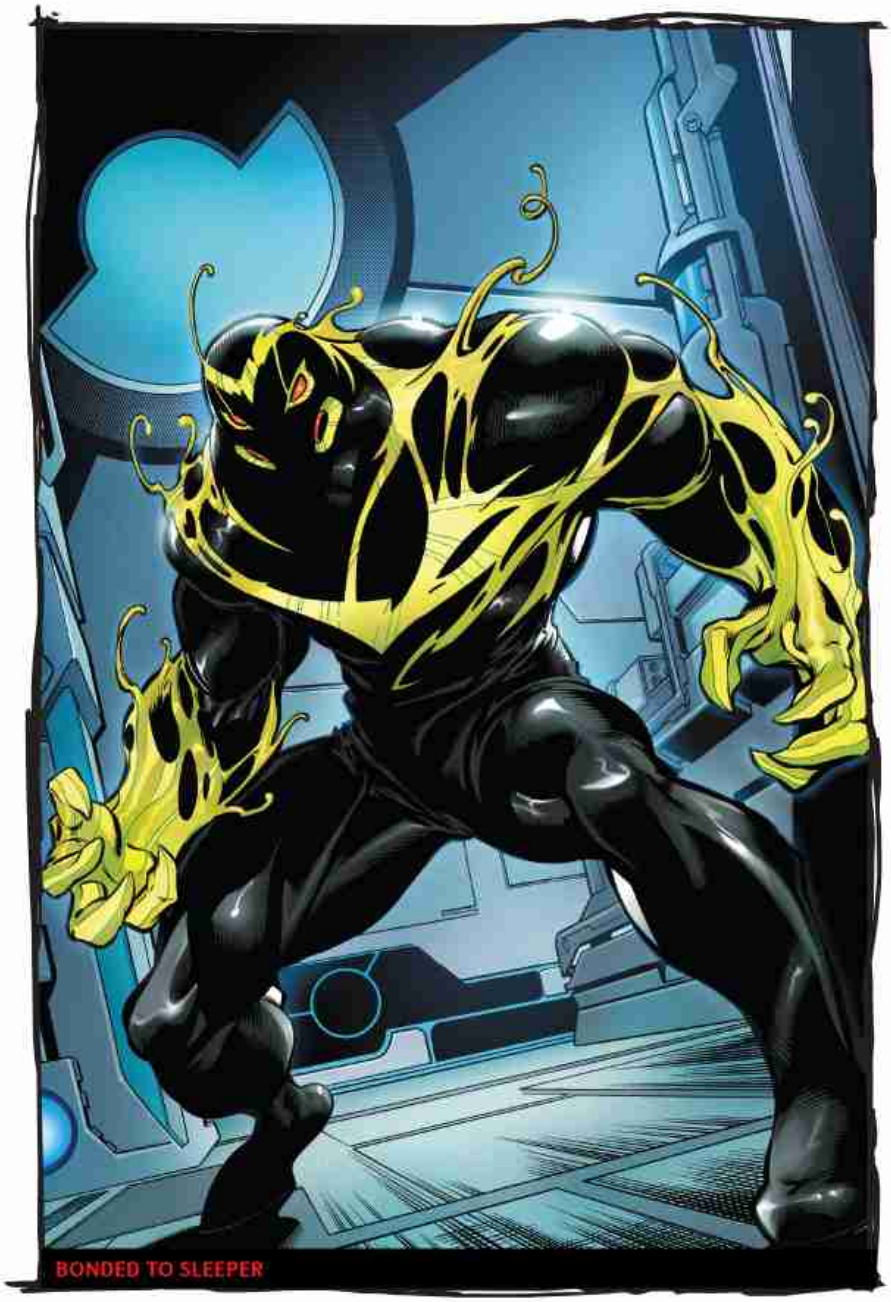
HEIGHT: 6'3" (variable)
WEIGHT: 260 lbs. (variable)
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Reddish-blond

HISTORY: As a teenager, Eddie Brock killed a child while driving drunk; his father, Carl, spent much of the family fortune to keep Brock out of

AS TOXIN

jail and avoid any repercussions. Resentful of how his father had browbeaten him into complying, the two became estranged. Brock eventually left his past behind and became a reporter, but when Spider-Man (Peter Parker) defeated the true serial killer Sin-Eater (Stan Carter), Brock's exclusive interview with Emil Gregg, a man claiming to be the Sin-Eater, was discredited. The revelation destroyed Brock's career and his marriage to lawyer Anne Weying, which ignited his hatred of Spider-Man. During a chance encounter, Brock joined with Spider-Man's discarded alien symbiote costume to become Venom and bedeviled the wall-crawler for years before reaching an uneasy truce with him and becoming a vigilante lethal protector of the innocent. Meanwhile, the symbiote, terrified of being abandoned again, altered Brock's memories to make him believe it was suppressing his cancer, even though Brock was cancer-free, and further stoked his fears by making him remember a fictitious sister Mary and unidentified uncle who had died of cancer. At various times, Venom's symbiote spawned offspring; one of them bonded with serial killer Cletus Kasady to become the monstrous Carnage. At some point, Brock and Weying reunited and somehow conceived a child, though Weying alluded to no traditional conception occurring;

AS TOXIN, WITH FBI



BONDED TO SLEEPER

somehow the child also received genetic material from the symbiote. Keeping her pregnancy secret from Brock, Weying left the boy (named Dylan) with his grandfather, Carl; still traumatized from her brief bond with the alien, Weying later died by suicide. Some time later, during a religious awakening, Brock gave up his symbiote; it passed to the criminal Scorpion (Mac Gargan), then government super-soldier Agent Venom ("Flash" Thompson). Meanwhile, Brock, still believing he had cancer, met philanthropist Martin Li (secretly the Chinatown crime lord Mister Negative), who possessed a healing touch; when he tried to heal Brock, his power supercharged the symbiote traces still in his body, giving him the ability to transform into the antibody-powered Anti-Venom. Brock was soon shattered to learn that Li was Mister Negative. Brock set out to take down Negative, and with the help of Spider-Man and the vigilante Wraith (Yuri Watanabe), he exposed Li's identity to the public, forcing the crime lord underground.

Soon afterward, the Jackal (Miles Warren) and Queen (Ana Soria) infected Manhattan with a genetically engineered plague that transformed its residents into monstrous spider-creatures. Believing he was on a divine mission, Anti-Venom took up residence in the Our Lady of Saints Church, using his powers to heal victims. Before long, Agent Venom battled and apprehended him; although he was supposed to bring Brock in peacefully, the Venom symbiote reacted violently to Anti-Venom and attacked him. Nevertheless, Agent Venom delivered Anti-Venom to Horizon Labs, where Brock was willingly drained fully of all his antibodies to formulate a successful cure, leaving him powerless again. Inspired by his encounter with Venom, Brock began hunting other symbiote hosts, apparently killing Hybrid (Scott Washington) and Scream (Donna Diego) before the Crime-Master (Bennett Brant) captured him and bonded him with the Toxin symbiote. Agreeing to work with the crime lord to get his revenge on Thompson, he joined Crime-Master's Savage Six. In a clash with Agent Venom, Brock and his symbiote were seemingly incinerated; in reality, both survived and slunk off to heal while Thompson defeated Crime-Master and the rest of the Six.

After recovering, Brock followed Thompson to Philadelphia; the two clashed, but had to join forces to battle the biomechanical Symbiote Slayers. Seeing Thompson act heroically, Brock was willing to believe Thompson had avoided being corrupted by his symbiote, and the two reached an uneasy truce. Keeping an eye on Thompson, Brock became a vigilante in Philadelphia until the FBI apprehended him and forcibly recruited him into an anti-Carnage task force; the FBI inoculated Brock with drugs that blocked him from becoming Toxin until his handlers allowed him. Brock quickly developed an antagonistic relationship with the task force's leader, Claire Dixon, but still joined her, ex-astronaut John Jameson, and Carnage-attack survivor Manuela Calderon in setting up an ambush for Carnage in a West Virginia mine. However, they ran afoul of a group of *Darkhold* cultists, who believed Carnage was prophesied to release the elder god Chthon. Brock and his team barely escaped with their lives, and Carnage fled with the evil *Darkhold* tome. Cut loose by the FBI, Brock and the others joined forces with *Darkhold* hunter Victoria Montesi and pursued Carnage to Indonesia, where they met Jubulile Van Scotter, a young South African sailor who had survived an encounter with Kasady and maintained a psychic link with him; however, they lost Dixon, whom Kasady captured and transformed into his symbiotic minion Raze. Tracking Kasady to an island in the Timor Sea, Brock gave the Toxin symbiote to Van Scotter to help combat Kasady's influence over her; she used it

to defeat the risen Chthon, but it was apparently destroyed in the process, leaving Brock alone again. Kasady meanwhile slew Raze when she broke from his control, before Montesi subdued him using the evil *Darkhold* tome.

Sometime after the Venom symbiote was taken from Thompson by FBI Agent Wambaugh while attempting to capture it for the U.S. government, Brock returned to service with the FBI in time to help capture the Venom symbiote's new host, criminal Lee Price. With Price separated from the alien, Brock freed the symbiote from captivity and bonded with it willingly, becoming Venom once more. He resumed his vigilante career; however, the symbiote began acting erratically, due to the FBI's symbiote-blocking drugs still in Brock's system. While looking into attacks by dinosaur-man Vincent Stegron and his mutated acolytes, Brock's investigation took him to Alchemax, a chemical firm headed by Liz Allan. He offered to help her find Stegron, and to allow the company's scientists to study him. Soon, Alchemax scientist Dr. Steve discovered the source of the symbiote's problems and devised a drug to treat it. Brock eventually defeated Stegron, but found that his dinosaur-men now hailed him as their savior, and he protected them from aggrieved subterranean Moloids and Kraven the Hunter (Sergei Kravinoff). Unbeknownst to Brock, however, the symbiote was undergoing another change — it was about to spawn.

Venom joined with a number of symbiote hosts from across the Multiverse to journey to Earth-22249 and battle the Poisons, a race of alien parasites that consumed symbiotes and their hosts, transforming their corpses into powerful warriors; Venom and his allies returned to their home realities after apparently defeating the Poisons. Before long, Lee Price escaped from jail, stealing the symbiote of Thompson's former sidekick Mania (Andi Benton) and bonding with it to become Maniac. He began taking over New York's underworld by turning criminals into his symbiotic "Inklings," prompting Thompson to try and reclaim his symbiote from Brock; the conflicted symbiote briefly connected to both men. Misinterpreting the ensuing struggle in Alchemax's labs, Spider-Man doused them both in an Alchemax-created Anti-Venom serum, transforming Thompson into the new Agent Anti-Venom and helping resolve some of Brock's chemical imbalances. The two joined forces with Spider-Man, Black Cat (Felicia Hardy), and Benton to defeat Price.

UNDER KNULL'S INFLUENCE

After bounty hunters attacked the spacefaring Starjammers with weaponized symbiotes, the time-displaced original X-Men sought Venom's help; he refused, so they abducted him for their rescue mission anyway. After the Starjammers were saved, the X-Men and Venom returned to Earth to find it in the throes of an active Poison invasion; soon, the Poisons captured and infected Carnage to spearhead their invasion force. Eventually, Venom, the X-Men, and Spider-Man were able to stem the invasion, destroying the Poison Queen and killing most of the Poisons.

Pursued by a government task force led by an apparently resurrected Claire Dixon and the Scorpion, the symbiote produced its offspring, Sleeper — but Dr. Steve fooled Dixon into believing Sleeper was not a threat by claiming that the new symbiote had been stillborn. Venom also helped his old foe Spider-Man in his struggle against Norman Osborn, who had bonded with the Carnage symbiote — or a "pruning" of the symbiote stolen from the sub-aquatic Lock Box facility — to become the Red Goblin; as a sign of the trust that had formed between the two, Brock even lent

his symbiote to Spider-Man, who used it to defeat Osborn. Soon afterward, Tel-Kar, the deranged Kree warrior who apparently had been Venom's first host, traveled to Earth and stole the symbiote from Brock, hoping to use it to reclaim an anti-Skrull bioweapon. Bonding with the Sleeper symbiote and allying with the Skrull warbride M'lanz, Brock chased Tel-Kar into space, where he retrieved his symbiote and destroyed the bioweapon; Tel-Kar followed him to Earth, but Sleeper lobotomized the Kree warrior and used his mindless body as its host. It left Brock to explore the stars.

USING DREAMSTONE

Soon, Brock's symbiote began behaving erratically again, this time not from a chemical imbalance, but from the malign influence of the ancient symbiote god Knull; it began negatively affecting Brock's writing, as well, and he was fired from the tabloid *Fact Sheet*. During one such spell, when his symbiote went out of control and began speaking an ancient symbiote language, Venom encountered Rex Strickland, a man claiming to be a Vietnam War-era symbiote-bonded super-soldier; in fact, Strickland had died in Vietnam, and his surviving symbiote, a fragment of the ancient dragon-like Grendel, had assumed his form and identity. "Strickland" recruited Brock to help rescue his old Sym-Soldier squadmates, who had been placed in stasis and were being transported to a facility to be exterminated following the peacekeeping S.H.I.E.L.D.'s shutdown. However, "Strickland" was unaware that Grendel was also being transported in the same vehicle, and during Brock's rescue attempt, the massive creature escaped. Venom confronted the monster and encountered Knull for the first time, who spoke to him through Grendel. In the presence of the ancient creature, Venom manifested working wings, and used them to battle the monstrous entity. When the Strickland-symbiote sacrificed itself by pulling Grendel into a blast furnace, Venom held the doors shut in an attempt to kill Grendel. However, Brock's own symbiote sustained so much damage in the process that it lost many of its cognitive functions, lapsing into an animalistic state; despite "Strickland" and Venom's sacrifices, a small portion of Grendel secretly survived and was collected by the maniacal Maker (Earth-1610's Reed Richards).

Later traveling to San Francisco, Brock encountered Carl and Dylan; Carl claimed Dylan was Brock's half brother, and Brock soon became aware that Carl

was abusing Dylan. There, the Maker captured Brock, hoping to unlock his symbiote's secrets. While undergoing the Maker's procedures, Brock's mind interlinked with his symbiote's, bringing him to the realization that the symbiote had altered his memories, revealing the false deceased sister and uncle and that Dylan was apparently his son; Brock kept the latter revelation from Dylan. Separated from Brock, the symbiote drove Carl away, leaving Dylan in Brock's custody. The symbiote left, believing it was harming Brock more than helping him.

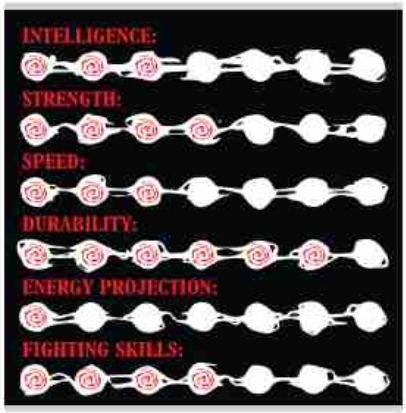
The symbiote helped a number of savage heroes battle the sorcerer Kulan Gath, and then aided the Avengers during Malekith's attack on the Earth. Meanwhile, Brock and his son were caught in New York City as Malekith's armies besieged the city. A Dark Elf witch approached Brock with a mystical Dreamstone, which allowed him to construct a magical replica of the symbiote; although the witch had hoped to recruit Brock into Malekith's army, he instead attacked her, and used the Dreamstone against Malekith's forces. The witch empowered his foe Jack O'Lantern with a Dreamstone as well; Brock overcame his own Dreamstone's corrupting influence, using it to empower a crowd of civilians to defeat the villain before rejecting and discarding it.

Meanwhile, a Knull-worshipping cult stole the Maker's portion of Grendel and bonded it with Carnage's corpse, restoring and greatly empowering him. Carnage formulated a plan to collect the genetic imprints left in each current and former symbiote host's spine (known as a codex), and to use them all to awaken Knull, bringing him to Earth to unleash his murderous terror on humanity. He hunted and attacked Brock, but the Venom symbiote rejoined Brock at the last moment to save his life. Learning of Carnage's plans, Venom sought help from Spider-Man and the Maker, the latter of whom had invented a device to safely extract codices. Needing a test subject for the device, Venom and Spider-Man went to Ravencroft to collect Norman Osborn but were too late to stop Carnage from putting Osborn under his control. Soon, the city fell into chaos, as Carnage and his minions hunted former symbiote hosts for their codices. Several other heroes joined forces with Venom and used the machine to extract their codices; during a confrontation with Carnage, Brock's symbiote abandoned him, believing he wouldn't have the ruthlessness to kill Carnage, and bonded with the Hulk (Bruce Banner) instead. Carnage defeated the Venom-Hulk and absorbed the Venom symbiote into himself; to fight back, Brock bonded with the heroes' extracted codices. With Carnage in his grasp, but Dylan in Carnage's, Brock was given a choice — absorb the Carnage symbiote into himself, knowing that the codices Carnage had already consumed would awaken Knull, or allow Kasady to kill his son. He chose the former, apparently returning Kasady to the grave and bonding with the combined Venom-Carnage symbiote — but not before Dylan learned that he allegedly was Brock's son, changing the tenor of their relationship for a time.

Seeking to destroy the Carnage symbiote within him, in which Kasady's deranged personality still lingered, Brock traveled to Isla de Huesos, an abandoned island where he had once dwelled. Carnage soon attacked Brock, who, despite cutting off his own left hand to get away, was overtaken. With Brock in peril, Dylan used strange, undefined powers over symbiotes to seemingly destroy Carnage; however, unbeknownst to Brock, it survived and apparently claimed a shark as its host. Later, during an encounter with the Maker and the armored, vengeance-seeking Virus (Mac Gargan), Venom and Dylan were transported to a Earth-1051, an alternate Earth dominated by the symbiote overlord Codex (that reality's Dylan Brock). The Brocks aided in Codex's defeat, then had to wait over a year for the completion of the technology that could return them home. During that time, Brock's missing hand was reinstated, apparently through enhanced abilities the symbiote gained due to exposure to that reality's hive mind.

NOTE: *In light of the revelation that Brock's sister was a deception created by the symbiote, the truth about the comatose Mary Brock Venom learned of in* Nova *#6 (1999) remains unrevealed.*

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES (ABRIDGED): **Eddie Brock is bonded to an alien symbiote that increases his strength (lifting approximately 11 tons), durability, and endurance. It typically also manifests sharp claws and teeth, and a long, prehensile tongue. It can generate tendrils and organic webbing, change its appearance and render itself nearly invisible, and can heal Brock's injuries and animate his body when he is unconscious. It is bulletproof, and can resist most toxins. It has achieved powered flight via large, dragon-like wings. It eliminates waste by excreting a green, viscous substance through its mouth. Brock is a skilled reporter and experienced brawler, and is in excellent physical condition. When he was bonded to Sleeper, Brock had enhanced camouflage abilities, and could emit a variety of pheromones, tranquilizers, and stimulants. He briefly made use of a Dreamstone, a mystical Dark Elf artifact capable of translating dreams into reality; he used it to construct a suit of armor similar to his symbiote. While bonded to a hybrid-codex symbiote, Brock possessed some of the abilities of Captain America (Steve Rogers), Hawkeye (Clint Barton), the Thing (Ben Grimm), and Wolverine (James Howlett). At various times, Brock has used a variety of high-tech and improvised anti-symbiote weapons.**



FIRST APPEARANCE: (Venom, partial) *Web of Spider-Man #18* (1986); (Venom, full) *Amazing Spider-Man #299* (1988); (Venom, identified) *Amazing Spider-Man #300* (1988); (Anti-Venom) *Amazing Spider-Man #562* (2008); (Toxin) *Venom #17* (2012)

ART BY MARK BAGLEY, IBAN COELLO, MIKE PERKINS, DECLAN SHALVEY & RYAN STEGMAN

ANNE WEYING

REAL NAME: Anne "Annie" Weying
ALIASES: She-Venom, Anne Brock
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Lawyer
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Flatbush, Brooklyn, New York City, New York
KNOWN RELATIVES: Dylan Brock (son), Eddie Brock (Venom, ex-husband)
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: J.D. in law from unidentified university, unspecified undergraduate degree from Empire State University
HEIGHT: (Weying) 5'9" (She-Venom) variable
WEIGHT: (Weying) 140 lbs. (She-Venom) variable
EYES: Blue
HAIR: Brown (dyed blond)

WITH DYLAN BROCK

HISTORY: After enrolling at Empire State University, Anne Weying met Eddie Brock, a compulsive liar, who convinced Weying he was lost and asked her to help him find his off-campus apartment. Wandering into a dangerous neighborhood, Brock eventually admitted to lying about being lost so he could spend time with her. Attacked by muggers, Weying was knocked out; in an attempt to save himself Brock offered Weying to the thugs. However, the hero Spider-Man (Peter Parker) happened by and beat up the attackers and left; Brock took credit for saving Weying and she began to fall for Brock. They eventually married and Brock became an intern at the *Daily Globe*, although Weying was under the impression that he was a junior reporter. When Brock lucked into a series of exclusive articles about the serial killer Sin-Eater, Weying was delighted to see his articles on the front page of the *Globe*, but soon became concerned as Brock became obsessed with his job. When Spider-Man revealed the true Sin-Eater (Stan Carter), Brock's Sin-Eater (Emil Gregg) was exposed as a copycat and he was fired from the *Globe*. Brock became psychologically unstable, fixating on Spider-Man and obsessively lifting weights. Saddened by the deterioration of their relationship and disgusted with Brock's inability to take responsibility for his actions, Weying served Brock with divorce papers, unaware he had recently bonded with an alien symbiote that was also fixated on Spider-Man; together they would soon become the villainous Venom.

Years later and now a lawyer, Weying had become guarded in her personal life, not wanting to be known as "Venom's ex-wife." After learning of her, Spider-Man asked for Weying's help when Venom abducted Peter Parker's "parents" (actually synthetic impostors created by an insane Harry Osborn); she told him Brock likely took them to the Thrill World amusement park in Brooklyn, where they used to go on dates. Wanting to help, Weying also went there but her life was threatened by a collapsing Ferris wheel damaged by Venom while battling Spider-Man. Spider-Man helped Venom save Weying, and she convinced Brock to drop his vendetta against the hero, inspiring Venom to become a vigilante protector of innocent people.

Later, Attorney F. Bennet Field hired Weying as a legal assistant to help defend video game magnate Fordham Rhodes after an employee hacked into a prison computer to beta test a game based on symbiote-powered serial killer Carnage (Cletus Kasady), actions that inadvertently allowed Carnage to escape. However, a religious extremist Sin-Eater (Michael G. Engelschwert) attacked the trio, injuring Weying and killing Rhodes and Field. Following Weying to the hospital, Sin-Eater failed to kill her thanks to Venom's intervention. After Sin-Eater escaped, Venom brought Weying to his subterranean hideout, where Brock ordered his symbiote to bond with Weying and heal her injuries. When later attacked by a pair of predatory criminals, the symbiote controlled Weying and slaughtered the thugs. When Brock reclaimed the symbiote, Weying awoke and was horrified by the massacre. After fleeing to her apartment, Weying was met by an unidentified, deranged woman who blamed Venom for emotional trauma her daughter Kirstin suffered when Kirstin's boyfriend Clive was paralyzed during a confrontation with Venom; she abducted Weying to use as bait for Venom so she could kill him. Converging at Weying's apartment, Kirstin chastised her mother for using violence to solve problems, Weying hit Kirstin's mother with a lamp, ending her threat. After an encounter with a

AS SHE-VENOM

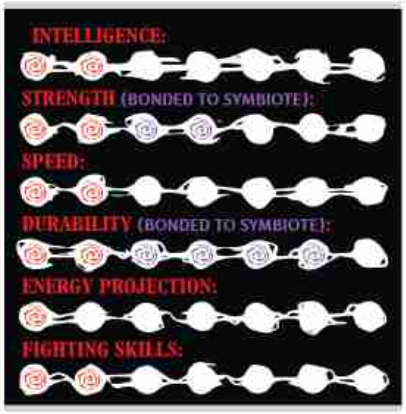
symbiote-possessed, vampiric Rune of Reality-93060, Brock swore to Weying to always keep her safe, and the pair once again became romantically involved.

Later still, the NYPD's Venom Task Force took Weying into custody, using her to lure Venom into the open. When Brock called her apartment, the call was forwarded to police HQ. Sensing something wrong, Brock sent his symbiote through the phone lines and connected minds with Weying, who went into an ecstatic state. Learning her location, Venom rescued her but when they reached the roof, Weying refused to go any farther. The arrival of Spider-Man (Peter Parker's clone Ben Reilly) interrupted their argument, but Weying hit Spider-Man in the head with a pipe during a subsequent brawl so Venom could flee; police arrested Weying for aiding Venom's escape. Weying used her phone call to tell Brock not to rescue her, but he still sent the symbiote through phone lines so it could bond with her again; as Weying escaped, reporter Trish Tilby named her "She-Venom." Fleeing to Thrill World, She-Venom battled drug dealers before returning the symbiote to Brock. Declaring Brock addicted to the symbiote and not wanting to become addicted herself, Weying told him to stay away until he ended his renewed feud with Spider-Man and was free of the symbiote; presumably the police dropped the charges against Weying. However, she soon discovered she was pregnant, apparently having conceived a child with Brock and, somehow, the symbiote; despite this Weying alluded to no traditional conception occurring.

WITH AGORAPHOBIA

Weying gave birth to the baby, which she named Dylan. Traumatized by her time with the symbiote and not trusting herself or Brock to raise the child, an unhinged Weying gave Dylan to Brock's father, Carl, swearing him to secrecy, then became an agoraphobic recluse. Brock later visited Weying hoping to rekindle their relationship, but when she saw Spider-Man swing by she mistakenly believed he was the symbiote coming to reclaim her. When Venom departed to attack Spider-Man for "bugging" her, Weying committed suicide by throwing herself out of her high-rise window. She was later buried in Calvary Cemetery in Queens, New York.

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: As She-Venom, **Weying had superhuman strength (lifting up to 11 tons) and durability, sharp claws and teeth, could cling to walls, shoot strands of the alien's substance as adhesive "webbing" from her wrists or as tendrils from her body, camouflage herself, and negate Spider-Man's spider-sense. Weying was a competent lawyer.**



FIRST APPEARANCE: *Amazing Spider-Man #375* (1993); (She-Venom) *Venom: Sinner Takes All #2* (1995); (She-Venom, identified) *Venom: Along Came a Spider #2* (1996)

ART BY JOSHUA CASSARA, ERIK LARSEN & GREG LUZNIAK

WRAITH

REAL NAME: Formerly Zak-Del
ALIASES: Formerly Pale One, Gray Rider, Wind that Walks, Pale Rider, Kree with no name, "Paleface"
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Mercenary; former assassin
CITIZENSHIP: Kree Empire
PLACE OF BIRTH: Marxhotz, Kree Empire, Magellanic Cloud galaxy
KNOWN RELATIVES: Sim-Del (father, deceased), unidentified mother (deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly Kree underground, Nameless Kree
EDUCATION: Unrevealed
HEIGHT: 5'7"
WEIGHT: 147 lbs.
EYES: Pale blue; formerly black with red irises (no visible pupil)
HAIR: White with pale blue; formerly black and white stripes

HISTORY: Eons ago, while creating an army of symbiotic warriors in his quest to return the universe to eternal darkness, Knull discarded his failed experiments in the Exoteric Latitude realm. Centuries later, the Kree Zak-Del was born in an outlander settlement on the paradise-like Marxhotz planetoid, where the Kree Empire also housed a prison facility. Apparently aware of Knull, Kree inventor Sim-Del created a device that would "bring light to the entire galaxy." His efforts led to his murder by a secret Kree military society. Sim-Del's son, Zak-Del, witnessed his parents' murder and observed the military society's signet ring worn by the assassin. While fleeing Marxhotz in a spaceship, Zak-Del unintentionally went through a wormhole to the Exoteric Latitude and encountered the pale, androgynous Nameless Kree, survivors of a long-lost exploration team who had been possessed by the Exolon soul parasites, which were actually Knull's long-abandoned failed experiments. When one of the Nameless stabbed Zak-Del in the heart, the Exolon possessed him. Though the former Zak-Del embraced the Nameless' barbaric ways, his need to avenge his parents drove the now-adult being to steal the weapon and spaceship of the Nameless' leader and escape the Exoteric Latitude.

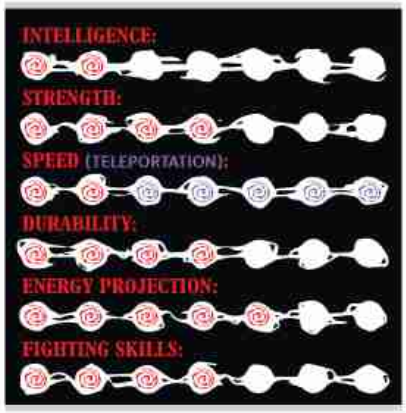
When the former Zak-Del arrived in the Kree Empire, he found it being invaded by the techno-organic Phalanx. While resisting the Phalanx the former Zak-Del earned the name Wraith due to his calm nature and pale skin. When the Phalanx's leader, the murderous robot Ultron, claimed a cache of Kree Sentry robots as a giant robot body, Wraith coated the robot with the Exolon, trapping Ultron's consciousness within it while

WITH EXOLON

rebellion forces destroyed it. Wraith then used the Exolon to purge the Phalanx's taint from Kree citizens before resuming his quest for his parents' murderer. Later, when the Titan Eros (Starfox) sought to capture his adoptive niece Gamora to ensure she didn't inadvertently house the consciousness of his deceased, murderous brother Thanos, Wraith agreed to help capture her in exchange for information about Knull and the Exolon. After successfully procuring Gamora for Eros, Wraith was given an information device and departed, but not before secretly stealing a teleportation device from Eros. Wraith followed the information to Marxhotz where he found strange symbols on a wall in his father's abandoned lab. Wraith teleported to coordinates in Eros' information, arriving at the planet Klyntar. There, he had a vision of Earth's Eddie Brock (the host of the Venom symbiote) just before Knull broke free from a centuries-long imprisonment at the planet's center. Knull explained the Exolon's origins just before he stripped them from Wraith to forge a sword. Adrift in space, the powerless Zak-Del encountered a bright light, a symbol that matched what he saw in his father's lab, and heard a voice that caused the void (darkness) to scream. Realizing this light was Knull's opposite, Zak-Del teleported to Earth to tell Brock that a god of light was coming. After delivering the message, Zak-Del's atoms were apparently torn apart somehow, leaving the god of light's symbol burnt into the concrete where he stood.

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES (ABRIDGED): When wearing the Exolon as Wraith, Zak-Del was covered in a black membrane, healed rapidly (essentially preventing death), and did not tire or feel pain. With the Exolon, he had enhanced strength, could apparently survive in space, and did not register to technology as a living being. He could control his Exolon from miles away, cause them to swarm, project fear into opponents, cure Phalanx infections, and absorb energy blasts or others' souls. He carried a polymorphic weapon that he could mentally transform into any other weapon he could think of such as a whip, bladed weapons, energy blaster, staff, or even binoculars, and he rode a motorcycle-like spaceship. He had a teleportation device he wore on his wrist that could traverse universal distances and was an experienced fighter.

STRIPPED OF EXOLON



FIRST APPEARANCE: (Vision) *Annihilation: Conquest Prologue #1* (2007); (physical) *Annihilation: Conquest — Wraith #1* (2007); (identified) *Annihilation: Conquest — Wraith #2* (2007); (Zak-Del) *Web of Venom: Wraith #1* (2020)

ART BY KYLE HOTZ, CLINT LANGLEY & GUIU VILLANOVA

KING IN BLACK HANDBOOK

As the dark king Knull descends on the Marvel Universe, the Official Handbook turns its focus to all things symbiote with this brand-new collection of profiles! The perfect primer for many of the key players in the *King in Black* crossover:

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KNULL
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REX STRICKLAND
TEL-KAR
VENOM (EDDIE BROCK)
ANNE WEYING
WRAITH (FORMERLY ZAK-DEL)

MARVEL

ZONE